B. To the Claims

Applicants request that the Examiner enter the amendments to the claims set forth below. Claims 13-14, 16, 21-23, 26, 29, 34, 44-58, 60-61, 63, 65-67, 69-70, 73-74, 83, 89, 93, 95-98, 101, 103, 105-112, 114-116, 118-119, 130, 132, 134, 140, 149, 151-152, 154-156, 158-161, 181, 189-190, 192-193, 195, 197-203, 205, 210, 213-216, 219-222, 224, 231-233, 237, 239-240, 242-244, 246-253, 255-256, 259-264, 274, 280, 285, 287, 289-290, 292-296 & 301-302 are amended. For the PTO's convenience, claims that remain unchanged are included below in order to allow the Examiner to review all pending claims from this response in their numerical order.

Please cancel claim 15 without prejudice.

Please amend the claims as follows:

2. (Unchanged) A method of gathering information on the use of a control signal at a receiver station, said receiver station having a plurality of inputs, a processor, and a least one controllable device, said receiver station transferring said gathered information to a remote station, said method comprising the steps of:

identifying a control signal;

searching for said control signal in an input data stream based on said step of identifying;

passing said control signal from said processor to said at least one controllable device based on said step of searching; and

communicating information on the passing of said control signal from said receiver station to said remote station.

3. (Unchanged) The method of Claim 2 wherein said receiver station is a television receiver station, said television receiver station receiving signals containing television programming information.

4. (Unchanged) The method of Claim 2 wherein said control signal in said step of identifying is directed to an external device.

5. (Unchanged) The method of Claim 4 wherein said external device is a storage device.

6. (Unchanged) The method of Claim 4 wherein said external device is a switch.

7. (Unchanged) The method of Claim 4 wherein said external device is a building facilities operating device.

8. (Unchanged) The method of Claim 4 wherein said external device is a tuner.

9. (Unchanged) The method of Claim 4 wherein said external device is a computer.

10. (Unchanged) The method of Claim 4 wherein said external device is a recorder.

11. (Unchanged) The method of Claim 4 wherein said external device is a printer.

12. (Unchanged) The method of Claim 4 wherein said external device is a disk.

Sub 13 G1

13. (Amended) A multimedia receiving apparatus for gathering information on the use of a [control] signal at said apparatus comprising:

a plurality of input ports for receiving multimedia signals;

an output port;

a processor operatively connected to said plurality of input ports and said output port; said processor programmed for:

identifying a [control] signal from at least one of said plurality of input ports;

passing said [control] signal from said processor to said output port based on said step of identifying;

communicating information of the passing of said identified [control] signal based on said step of passing.

14. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim 13 wherein said processor is programmed for:

storing said information on the passing of said identified [control] signal on a storage device before said step of communicating; and

delaying said step of communicating based on a predetermined condition.

15. (Cancelled)

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16. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim 13 wherein said [communication of] processor is further programmed for communicating information from said apparatus to said remote data collection station [uses] using a telephone interface.

17. (Unchanged) The apparatus of Claim 13 where said output port is connected to an external device.

18. (Unchanged) The method of Claim 2 further comprising the step of:

generating a bill for the use of said control signal at said remote station based on the identification and passing of said control signal at said receiver station.

19. (Unchanged) The method of Claim 2 further comprising the steps of:

storing information on the passing of said identified control signal on a storage device at said receiver station before said step of communicating; and

delaying said step of communicating for a predetermined time.

20. (Unchanged) The apparatus of Claim 13 wherein said output port is connected to an internal device.

G3 Cont.

21. (Amended) A method of communicating subscriber station information from a subscriber station to at least one remote collection station, said method comprising the steps of:

inputting an instruct signal which is effective at said subscriber station to control an apparatus and at least one of a code and a datum to serve as evidence of at least one of [the] passing of said instruct signal to a controllable apparatus and [the] functioning of said controllable apparatus in response to said instruct signal;

detecting the presence of at least one of an instruction [, said] and said at least one of a code and [said] a datum, which is effective at [the] said subscriber station to at least one of (i) generate at least one of subscriber station specific datum and (ii) select and assemble a plurality of [said] subscriber station specific data into a record;

processing at the subscriber station at least one locally inputted datum and performing, in response to said detected at least one of [said] an instruction [, said] and said at least one of a code and [said] a datum, at least one of:

(a) communicating said generated at least one subscriber station specific data to a transmitter; and

(b) communicating said record and said selected specific plurality of subscriber specific data to a transmitter; and

transmitting at least one of said communicated at least one generated subscriber station specific datum and said communicated record and plurality of subscriber specific data to said at least one remote collection station.

22. (Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein said instruct signal is input by a subscriber, said method further comprising the steps of:

storing a subscriber instruction to receive at least one of specific mass medium [program] programming, data, news items, and computer control instructions; and

receiving at least one of specific mass medium [programs] programming, data, news items, and computer control instructions in accordance with said instruction.

23. (Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein said instruct signal is input by a subscriber, said method further comprising the steps of:

storing a subscriber instruction to at least one of process and present at least one of mass medium programs, data, news items, and computer control instructions in a specific fashion; and

at least one of processing and presenting at least one [Q] of specific mass medium programs, data, news items, and computer control instructions in accordance with said instruction.

24. (Unchanged) The method of claim 21, wherein said instruct signal is detected in an information transmission from a data or programming source, said method further comprising the steps of:

programming a processor to respond to [an] said instruct signal communicated from a data or programming source;

receiving an information transmission from at least one of a data and programming source;

inputting at least some of said information transmission to a control signal detector;

detecting said instruct signal in said information transmission; and

passing said instruct signal to said processor.

25. (Unchanged) A method of signal processing at a receiver station, said receiver station including a receiver and a processor, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving at said receiver identification signals that identify specific signal content for at least one of a plurality of one of concurrent broadcast and cablecast signal transmissions;

providing a comparison signal to said processor;

comparing said comparison signal to said identification signals and generating a control signal identifying a desired one of said plurality of one of broadcast and cablecast signal transmission based on said step of comparing;

tuning said receiver, based on said generated control signal, to receive said desired one of said plurality of one of broadcast and cablecast signal transmissions;

inputting at least a portion of said desired signal transmission to said processor; and

responding to (i) an instruct signal detected in said desired signal transmission which is effective to control a receiver station apparatus and (ii) a code or datum to serve

as evidence of the passing of said instruct signal to a controllable apparatus or of the functioning of [said] a controllable apparatus in response to said instruct signal.

26. (Amended) A method of controlling a remote intermediate transmitter station to communicate at least one instruct signal to at least one receiver station, with said remote transmitter station including at least one of a broadcast and cablecast transmitter signal which is effective at a receiver station to instruct one of a computer and a processor, a plurality of selective transfer devices each operatively connected to said at least one of said broadcast and said cablecast transmitter , a receiver for receiving said at least one instruct signal from at least one origination transmitter station a control signal detector, and one of a controller and computer capable of controlling at least one of said plurality of selective transfer devices, and with said remote transmitter station adapted to detect the presence of at least one control signal, and to deliver at said at least one of said broadcast and said cablecast transmitter said at least one instruct signal, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving said at least one instruct signal and at least one of a code and a datum at said at least one origination transmitter station and delivering said at least one instruct signal and said at least one of said code and said datum to at least one origination transmitter, said at least one instruct signal being operative at said at least one receiver station to control at least one controllable apparatus, said at least one of said code and said datum being operative at said at least one receiver station to serve as evidence of at least one of passing of said at least one instruct signal to said at least one controllable apparatus and functioning of said at least one controllable apparatus in response to said at least one instruct signal;

receiving said at least one control signal which at said remote intermediate data transmitter station operates to control the communication of said at least one instruct signal and said at least one of said code and said datum[:] ; and

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transmitting said at least one control signal to said at least one origination transmitter before a specific time.

27. (Unchanged) The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of embedding a specific one of said at least one control signal one of in said instruct signal and in an information transmission containing said instruct signal before transmitting said instruct signal to said remote transmitter station.

28. (Unchanged) The method of claim 26, wherein said specific time is a scheduled time of transmitting one of said instruct signal and some information associated with said instruct signal from said remote intermediate data transmitter station and said at least one control signal is effective at said remote intermediate data transmitter station to control at least one of said plurality of selective transmission devices at different times.

G6 Cncl.

29. (Amended) A method of processing signals at a receiver station having a computer and a television monitor to deliver at the television monitor at least one of a combined and sequential presentation of a program and a user specific output, said method comprising the steps of:

storing user data of interest;

receiving from a television programming source an information transmission containing television programming;

transferring said television programming to said television monitor and displaying the television programming;

detecting in said information transmission at least one instruct signal which is operative to control a receiver station apparatus and at least one of a code and a datum to serve as evidence of [at least one of] (i) a passing of said at least one instruct signal to at

least one controllable apparatus and (ii) the functioning of said at least one controllable apparatus in response to said at least one instruct signal;

controlling said computer based on said detected at least one instruct signal, said step of controlling comprising:

selecting at least a portion of said stored user data of interest;

communicating said selected at least said portion of said stored user data of interest to said television monitor; and subsequently

ceasing to communicate said select at least said portion to said television monitor; and

evidencing said [at least one of said combined and said sequential output of said received television programming and said selected specific portion of said stored user data of interest] functioning of said at least one controllable apparatus is response to said at least one instant signal by storing said at least one of said code and said datum in a record.

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30. (Unchanged) The method of claim 29, further comprising one of:

programming said receiver station to process viewer data of interest and to respond to at least one instruct signal associated with a television program;

receiving a command one of embedded in and associated with a signal that contains a television program;

storing a locally input command that one of designates and specifies one of:

(1) a television program to be one of displayed and recorded;

(2) a fashion in which to present one of a television program and some computer output; and

(3) a time in which to display one of some television programming and computer output;

controlling one of a processor and computer to process a viewer reaction to one of a unit of programming and an image displayed at said television monitor, said step of controlling comprising the steps of:

(1) assembling a record that includes additional data besides said viewer reaction; and

(2) transmitting said record to a remote data collection station; and

controlling one of a processor and computer to process a viewer reaction to one of a unit of programming and an image displayed at said television monitor, said step of controlling comprising the steps of:

(1) detecting a datum that identifies one of a unit of programming and an image displayed at said television monitor; and

(2) transmitting said datum to a remote data collection station;

controlling one of a processor and computer to process a viewer reaction to a one of unit of programming and an image displayed at said television monitor, said step of controlling comprising the steps of:

(1) storing a datum that identifies one of a unit of programming and an image displayed at said television monitor; and

(2) passing data of one of (i) the availability, (ii) use and (iii) usage of one of programming and said data to one of a processor and computer that controls one of the selection and communication of program materials at said receiver station; and

controlling one of a processor and computer to process a viewer reaction to one of a unit of programming and an image displayed at said television monitor, said step of controlling comprising the steps of:

(1) one of controlling a receiver to receive and a storage location to communicate a unit of programming associated with said unit of programming or image or in response to said viewer reaction; and

(2) outputting said unit of programming at an output device of said receiver station.

31. (Unchanged) A method of generating and encoding signals to control a presentation comprising the steps of:

receiving and storing a program that contains video information;

receiving at least one instruction and at least one of code and a datum, said at least one instruction having effect at a user station to control at least one controllable apparatus, said at least one of said code and said datum having effect at said user station to serve as evidence of at least one of passing of said at least one instruction to said at least one controllable apparatus and at least one function performed by said at least one controllable apparatus in response to said at least one instruction ;

encoding said at least one instruction, wherein said step of encoding translating said at least one instruction to at least one control signal, said at least one control signal for directing a processor at said user station to control said at least one controllable apparatus;

storing said at least one control signal from said step of encoding in conjunction with said program; and

storing said at least one of said code and said datum from said step of receiving in conjunction with said program and said at least one control signal.

32. (Unchanged) The method of claim 31, wherein supplemental program material is to be stored at the same location as said processor and wherein said control signal from said step of encoding directs said processor to generate a video overlay that is coordinated with said video information in said program, said method further comprising one step of the group consisting of:

storing said supplemental program material in conjunction with said program and said control signal; and

storing a second control signal in conjunction with said program and said control signal from said step of encoding, said second control signal having effect at a user station to one of query a remote station and receive said supplemental program material in a broadcast or cablecast transmission.

33. (Unchanged) The method of claim 31, wherein said control signal from said step of encoding directs said processor to generate a video overlay that is coordinated with said video information in said program, said method further comprising one step of the group consisting of:

transmitting a combined video signal from said program and said video overlay generated by said processor over one of a broadcast and cablecast network to a plurality of receiver stations; and

transmitting a combined video signal from said program and said video overlay generated by said processor to a co-located video display.

G7 Cont.

34. (Amended) The method of claim 31, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a second instruction, said second instruction being one of the group consisting of:

(1) an instruction which is effective at a user station to generate some output to be associated with said program;

(2) an instruction which is effective at a user station to generate some output to be associated with a product, service, or information presentation;

(3) an instruction which is effective at a user station to display one of a combined and sequential presentation of a mass medium program and a user specific datum;

(4) an instruction which is effective at a user station to process a user reaction to said program;

(5) an instruction which is effective at a user station to communicate to a remote station one of a query in respect of information to be associated with said program and to enable display of said program;

(6) an instruction which is effective at a user station to control a user station to receive information to supplement said program;

(7) an instruction which is effective at a user station to process a digital television signal ; and

(8) an instruction which is effective at a user station to serve as a basis for one of (i) enabling an output device to display at least some of said program and (ii) enabling a processor to process some executable code [.] ;

encoding said second instruction, said second step of encoding translating said second instruction to a second control signal, said second control signal for directing said ancillary processor to perform said specified second effect indicated by said second instruction with said program; and

storing said second control signal from said second step of encoding in conjunction with said program.

35. (Unchanged) The method of claim 31, further having one from the group consisting of:

embedding said control signal in the non-visible portion of a television signal;

embedding a code in said program that enables one of a computer and controller to control a presentation of said program in accordance with said control signal;

communicating a program unit identification code and storing said program unit identification code at a storage location associated with said program; and

communicating to and storing at a storage location associated with said program some information to evidence one of an availability, use, and usage of said program at a user station.

36. (Unchanged) A method of controlling a network having a plurality of receiver stations each of which includes a broadcast or cablecast signal receiver, at least one processor, a signal detector, said signal detector adapted to receive signals from a broadcast or cablecast signal, said processor programmed to respond to signals from said detector, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving at at least one of a broadcast and a cablecast transmitter station (i) at least one instruct signal which is effective at said plurality of receiver stations to control at least one controllable apparatus and (ii) at least one of a code and a datum to serve as evidence of at least one of passing of said at least one instruct signal to at least one controllable apparatus and functioning of said at least one controllable apparatus in response to said at least one instruct signal;

transferring said at least one instruct signal and said at least one of said code and said datum to at least one transmitter;

receiving at least one control signal at said transmitter station, said control signal designating at least one receiver station of said plurality of receiver stations in which said at least one instruct signal is addressed; and

transmitting said at least one control signal from said at least one transmitter, said at least one transmitter at least one of broadcasting and cablecasting said at least one instruct signal, said at least one of said code and said datum, and said at least one control signal to said plurality of receiver stations.

37. (Unchanged) The method of claim 36, wherein one of said instruct signal and said control signal is embedded in one of the non-visible portion of a television signal and a multichannel broadcast or cablecast signal that contains video.

38. (Unchanged) The method of claim 36, wherein said at least one control signal identifies two of said plurality of receiver stations asynchronously and each of said two receiver stations receive and respond to said instruct signal asynchronously.

39. (Unchanged) The method of claim 36, wherein a switch communicates signals selectively from a receiver and a one of memory and recorder to a transmitter, said method further comprising one from the group consisting of:

detecting a signal which is effective at the transmitter station to instruct communication;

determining a specific signal source from which to communicate a signal to a transmitter;

controlling said switch to communicate a signal to said transmitter in response to a signal which is effective at the transmitter station to instruct communication;

controlling said switch to communicate a signal from a selected signal source; and

controlling said switch to communicate to one of said memory and recorder a signal which is effective at the receiver station to instruct.

40. (Unchanged) The method of claim 36, wherein a controller controls a switch to communicate to a transmitter a selected signal, further comprising one from the group consisting of:

detecting a signal which is effective at the transmitter station to instruct transmission;

inputting to said controller a signal which is effective to control said switch;

controlling said switch to communicate one or more signals according to a transmission schedule;

controlling said switch to communicate from a specific one of a plurality of signal sources; and

controlling said switch to communicate a signal to a selected one of a plurality of transmitters.

41. (Unchanged) The method of claim 36, further comprising one from the group consisting of:

transmitting to a receiver station at least one data that one of designates one of a time and a channel of transmission of said instruct signal and that one of specifies the title of and some subject matter contained in one of a unit of mass medium programming and data associated with said instruct signal; and

transmitting to a receiver station a control signal to cause said receiver station to tune to a broadcast or cablecast transmission containing a specific instruct signal.

42. (Unchanged) The method of claim 36, wherein said at least one control signal further comprises downloadable executable code targeted to said processor at at least one of said plurality of receiver stations, said downloadable executable code programming one of the way and method in which said at least one processor responds to said instruct signal.

43. (Unchanged) The method of claim 36, wherein at least one receiver station is adapted to detect the presence of one of said control signal and programmed to respond to said instruct signal on the basis of the location of a signal in an information transmission, said method further comprising the step of causing at least some of said control signal or instruct signal to be transmitted in said location.

G8 Cont.

44. (Amended) A method of delivering and gathering information on the use of a [control] signal in a communication network, said network having a transmitter station and a receiver station, said transmitter station communicating commands directed to a computer program at said receiver station [and receiving information from said receiver station] , said receiver station having an input device, a processor [executing said computer program] for [receiving said commands from said transmitter station and transmit] transmitting information to [said transmitter] a remote collection station and a computer for storing data and controlling presentations, said method comprising the steps of:

selecting a media program from a plurality of media on the basis of [said] a subscriber program;

[displaying] outputting said selected media program from said step of selecting a media at said receiver station;

inputting a command at said input device in response to a command communicated in said selected media program;

receiving at said receiver station a control signal from an external source;

controlling a presentation of a unit of said selected media program at a peripheral device to said computer in [response to] accordance with said control signal [from said step of receiving] based on said step of inputting; and

communicating from said receiver station to said transmitter station data that represents a record of said selected media or said control signal.

45. (Amended) The method of claim 44 further comprising the step of:

programming said receiver station [to store data designated by a subscriber] by inputting a portion of said control signal to said computer to respond to one of said commands.

46. (Amended) A method of delivering informative materials by [broadcasting] communicating said informative materials on a communication network having a transmitter station and a receiver station, said receiver station having a user input device, a processor and a storage device, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving an input from a user at said user input device;

processing said input from said step of receiving an input at said receiver station to enable said receiver station to receive said informative materials;

receiving said informative materials from said communication network in response to [said enabled] reception of said informative material enabled in said step of processing; and

displaying said informative material from said step of receiving informative materials at said receiver station.

47. (Amended) The method of claim 46 comprising the further steps of:

creating a record on said receiver station storage device of the reception of said informative material; and

reporting [the] said record of [said] the reception of said informative material from said step of creating a record from said receiver station to said transmitter station.

48. (Amended) The method of claim 46 wherein enabling said informative material [is a recipe.] comprises decrypting.

49. (Amended) The method of claim 46 wherein [said] display of said informative material in said step of displaying is a print out on a printer at said receiver station.

50. (Amended) A [system] method for [the] delivery of informative materials in a [coordinated broadcast] communications network having a transmitter station and a plurality of receiver stations, each said of receiver [station] stations having a display, a processor and a storage device, said [system] method comprising the steps of:

receiving at each of said plurality of receiver stations from said communication network [said] a television program [from said step of transmitting a television program] ;

receiving at each of said plurality of receiver stations from said communication network said informative [material from said step of transmitting informative] materials;

decoding said informative [material] materials at each of said plurality of receiver stations;

storing said informative [material] materials from said step of decoding [said informative material] at said storage device of each of said receiver [station storage device] stations;

recording [the] use of said informative [material] materials at each of said plurality of receiver stations; and

reporting the record of [the] use of said informative [material] materials from said step of recording from each of said plurality of receiver stations to said transmitter station.

51. (Amended) The system of claim 50 comprising the further steps of;

buffering [said] the records of [the] use of said informative [material] materials at each of said plurality of receiver stations at said storage device in each of said plurality of receiver stations;

[autodialling] autodialing a modem from each of said plurality of receiver stations to said transmitter station in response to [said] a buffer in said each of said storage device reaching a predetermined amount.

52. (Amended) The system of claim 50 wherein [said coordinated transmission of] said informative [material is] materials are encoded in [the vertical blanking interval of said] a television signal [from said step of transmitting a television signal] .

53. (Amended) The system of claim 50 wherein [said coordinated transmission of] said informative [material is] materials are encoded on a carrier wave.

54. (Amended) A method of controlling a remote transmitter station to communicate program material to a remote receiver station and controlling said remote receiver station to communicate a response generated at said remote receiver station to a remote data [colletion] collection station, said method of controlling comprising the steps of:

(1) receiving a unit of programming to be transmitted at a remote transmitter station, and said transmitter station transferring said unit of programming to a transmitter;

(2) receiving one or more instruct signals and a code or datum at said remote transmitter station, said one or more instruct signals operate at the remote receiver station to control a receiver station apparatus and direct said receiver station to communicate said code or datum to a remote data collection site, said transmitter station transferring said one or more instruct signal to said transmitter;

(3) receiving one or more control signals at said remote transmitter station, said control signals control the communication of said unit of programming and said one or more instruct signals between said remote intermediate transmitter station and said remote receiver station; and

(4) transmitting from said remote transmitter station an information transmission comprising said first unit of programming, said one or more instruct signals

and said code or datum in response to said one or more control signals at said remote intermediate transmitter station.

55. (Amended) The method of claim 54, wherein said one or more control signals comprise a second code or datum which operates at said remote transmitter station to identify said unit of programming, said method further comprising the step of:

receiving a schedule which operates at said remote transmitter station to identify a specific transmission time for said unit of programming.

56. (Amended) The method of claim 54, wherein said remote program transmission station transmits said one or more control signals to said receiver station and said code or datum which operates at said remote transmitter station to identify said unit of programming, said method further comprising the step of:

receiving a schedule which operates at said remote transmitter station to identify a specific transmission time for said unit of programming.

57. (Amended) The method of claim 54, wherein said remote transmitter station communicates a plurality of units of mass medium programming according to a schedule and a specific one of said one or more control signals is effective at the remote transmitter station to communicate a specific one of said plurality of units of mass medium programming to a plurality of transmitters [or to a transmitter a plurality of times] .

58. (Amended) A method of controlling a remote intermediate mass medium programming transmitter station to communicate mass medium program material to one or more receiver stations, with said remote transmitter station including a broadcast or cablecast transmitter for transmitting one or more units of mass medium

programming, a plurality of selective [transmission] transfer devices each operatively connected to said broadcast or cablecast transmitter for communicating a unit of mass medium programming, a mass medium programming receiver, a control signal detector, and a controller or computer capable of controlling one or more of said selective [transmission] transfer devices, and with said remote transmitter station adapted to detect the presence of one or more control signals, to control the communication of specific units of mass medium programming in response to detected specific control signals, and to deliver at its broadcast or cablecast transmitter one or more units of mass medium programming, said method of communicating comprising the steps of:

[(1)] receiving a unit of mass medium programming to be transmitted by the remote intermediate mass medium programming transmitter station and delivering said unit of mass medium programming to a transmitter, said unit of mass medium programming having an instruct signal which is effective to control a receiver station apparatus and a code or datum to serve as evidence of the passing of said instruct signal to a controllable device or of the functioning of said controllable apparatus in response to said instruct signal;

[(2)] receiving one or more control signals which at the remote intermediate mass medium programming transmitter station operate to control the communication of said unit of mass medium programming; and

[(3)] transmitting said one or more control signals to said transmitter before a specific time.

59. (Unchanged) The method of claim 58, wherein said one or more control signals comprise a second code or datum which operates at the remote intermediate mass medium programming transmitter station to identify said unit of mass medium programming, said method further comprising the step of:

transmitting a schedule which operates at the remote intermediate mass medium programming transmitter station to communicate said unit of mass medium programming to a transmitter at said specific time.

60. (Amended) The method of claim 58, wherein said specific time is a scheduled time of transmitting said unit of mass medium programming at said remote intermediate mass medium programming transmitter station and said one or more control signals are effective at the remote intermediate mass medium programming transmitter station to control one or more of said plurality of selective [transmission] transfer devices at different times.

61. (Amended) A method of processing signals at a receiver station having a computer and a output device to deliver at the output device a combined or sequential presentation of a program and a user specific output, with said computer having a storage device for storing user data and said output outputting mass medium programming and other information, said method comprising the steps of:

storing user data of interest;

receiving from a mass medium programming source an information transmission containing mass medium programming;

transferring said mass medium programming to said output device and outputting said mass medium programming;

detecting in said information transmission an instruct signal which is effective to control a receiver station apparatus and a code or datum to serve as evidence of the passing of said instruct signal to a controllable device or of the functioning of said controllable apparatus in response to said instruct signal; and

controlling said computer based on said detected instruct signal, said step of controlling comprising:

(1) selecting a specific portion of said stored user data of interest;

(2) communicating said selected specific portion of said stored user data of interest to said output device; and subsequently

(3) ceasing to communicate said specific portion to said output device;

(4) delivering at said output device the combined or sequential output of said received mass medium programming and said selected specific portion of said stored user data of interest [in the period of time between said step of communicating said selected specific portion to said output device and said step of ceasing to communicate said selected specific portion to said output device] .

62. (Unchanged) The method of claim 61, further comprising any one of the steps of:

programming said receiver station to process viewer data of interest and to respond to one or more instruct signals associated with some mass medium programming;

receiving a command embedded in or associated with a signal that contains some mass medium programming;

storing a locally input command that designates or specifies one of:

(1) a unit of mass medium programming to be outputted or stored;

(2) a fashion in which to present some mass medium programming or some computer output; and

(3) a time in which to output or store some mass medium programming or computer output;

controlling a processor or computer to process a viewer reaction to a unit of programming or an image outputted at said output device, said step of controlling comprising the steps of:

(1) assembling a record that includes additional data besides said viewer reaction; and

(2) transmitting said record to a remote data collection station;

controlling a processor or computer to process a viewer reaction to a unit of programming or an image outputted at said output device, said step of controlling comprising the steps of:

(1) detecting a datum that identifies a unit of programming or an image outputted at said output device; and

(2) transmitting said datum to a remote data collection station;

controlling a processor or computer to process a viewer reaction to a unit of programming or an image outputted at said output device, said step of controlling comprising the steps of:

(1) storing a datum that identifies a unit of programming or an image outputted at said output device; and

(2) passing data of the availability, use or usage of programming or an image to a processor or computer that controls the selection or communication of programming materials for outputting at said receiver station; and

controlling a processor or computer to process a viewer reaction to a unit of programming or an image outputted at said output device, said step of controlling comprising the steps of:

(1) controlling a receiver to receive or a storage location to communicate a unit of programming associated with said unit of programming or image or in response to said viewer reaction; and

(2) outputting said communicated unit of programming at an output device of said receiver station.

63. (Amended) A method for tracking a reception of a control signal and a function of said control signal at a receiver station in a data network, said receiver station having a processor, a storage device, and a plurality of peripheral device interface connections, said method comprising the steps of:

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receiving said control signal at said receiver station;

detecting said control signal at said receiver station;

passing said control signal from said processor to at least one peripheral device through one of said plurality of peripheral device interface connections;

[determining] establishing what function said control signal from said step of passing said control signal performed at said at least one peripheral device; and

[recording] storing on said storage device the function of said control signal from said step of [determining] establishing what function said control signal performed at said at least one peripheral device [on said storage device] .

64. (Unchanged) The method of claim 63 wherein said function is a printer function.

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65. (Amended) The method of claim 63 wherein said function is a [multiple television] display function.

66. (Amended) The method of claim 63 wherein said function is a [laser disk player] media coordination function.

67. (Amended) The method of claim 63 wherein said function is a [video cassette] recorder function.

68. (Unchanged) The method of claim 63 wherein said function is a television function.

69. (Amended) The method of claim 63 wherein said function is a [radio] tuner function.

70. (Amended) The method of claim 63 wherein said function is a [computer] data processing function.

71. (Unchanged) The method of claim 63 wherein said function is an electro-mechanical control function.

72. (Unchanged) The method of claim 63 further comprising the step of:

recording the passing of said control signal from said step of passing.

73. (Amended) A method of processing signals at a receiver station having a computer and an output device to deliver at the output device [at least one of] a combined programming presentation [and a sequential programming presentation with a user specific] including a coordinated output, said computer having a storage device for storing user data and said output device outputting at least mass medium programming [and other information] , said method comprising the steps of:

storing user data [of interest] ;

receiving mass medium programming from a programming source and outputting [the] said mass medium programming at said output device;

receiving one of a broadcast information transmission and a cablecast information transmission including an instruct signal which is effective to control receiver station apparatus and at least one of a code and a datum to serve as evidence of one of:

(1) a passing of said instruct signal to controllable apparatus and;

(2) a functioning of said controllable apparatus in response to said instruct signal;

detecting said instruct signal in said one of said broadcast information transmission and said cablecast information transmission and passing said detected instruct signal to said computer; and

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controlling said computer based on said detected instruct signal, said step of controlling including:

(1) selecting a specific portion of [said stored user] data [of interest] ;

(2) communicating said selected specific portion of [said stored user] data [of interest] to [said output] said storage device; and subsequently

(3) ceasing to communicate an image from said storage device, said image based on said specific portion [to said output device] of data;

(4) delivering at said output device [at least one of a] said combined [output and a sequential output of] programming presentation, said combined programming presentation comprising simultaneous output of said received mass medium programming with said [selected specific portion of said stored user data of interest] image, said combined programming presentation presented in the period of time between said step of communicating [said selected specific portion to said output device and said] step of ceasing to communicate [said selected specific portion to said output device] ;

detecting said at least one of [said] a code and [said] a datum evidencing said one of:

(1) [said] a passing of said instruct signal to said controllable apparatus and;

(2) [said] a functioning of said controllable apparatus in response to said instruct signal;

storing said at least one of [said] a code and [said] a datum.

74. (Amended) The method of claim 73, wherein said [mass medium programming] image one of:

(1) supplements a television program; and

(2) completes a television program, and

wherein a user places an order in response to an offer communicated in said television program.

75. (Unchanged) The method of claim 73, further comprising the step of:

programming said receiver station to process viewer data of interest and to respond to at least one instruct signal associated with some mass medium programming.

76. (Unchanged) The method of claim 73 further comprising the step of:

receiving a command one of embedded in and associated with a signal that contains a portion of mass medium programming.

77. (Unchanged) The method of claim 73 further comprising the step of:

storing a locally input command that one of designates and specifies one of:

(1) mass medium programming to be one of outputted and stored;

(2) a fashion in which to present one of a portion of said mass medium programming and a portion of computer output.

(3) a time in which to one of output and store one of a portion of said mass medium programming and a portion of computer output.

78. (Unchanged) The method of claim 73 further comprising the step of:

controlling one of a processor and a computer to process a viewer reaction to one of mass medium programming and an image outputted at said output device, said step of controlling including:

(1) assembling a record that includes additional data besides said viewer reaction; and

(2) transmitting said record to a remote data collection station.

79. (Unchanged) The method of claim 73 further comprising the step of:

controlling one of a processor and a computer to process a viewer reaction to one of mass medium programming and an image outputted at said output device, said step of controlling including:

(1) detecting a datum that identifies one of said mass medium programming and said image outputted at said output device; and

(2) transmitting said datum to a remote data collection station.

80. (Unchanged) The method of claim 73 further comprising the step of:

controlling one of a processor and a computer to process a viewer reaction to one of mass medium programming and an image outputted at said output device, said step of controlling including:

(1) storing a datum that identifies one of said mass medium programming and said image outputted at said output device; and

(2) passing data of one of the availability, use, and usage of said one of said mass medium programming and said outputted image to one of said processor and said computer that controls one of the selection and communication of mass medium programming for output at said receiver station.

81. (Unchanged) The method of claim 73 further comprising the step of:

controlling one of a processor and a computer to process a viewer reaction to one of mass medium programming and an image outputted at said output device, said step of controlling including:

(1) controlling one of a receiver to receive and a storage location to communicate a first mass medium programming associated with one of said mass medium programming and said outputted image in response to said viewer reaction; and

(2) outputting said communicated first mass medium programming at said output device at said receiver station.

82. (Unchanged) The method of claim 73, wherein said at least one of said code and said datum serves as evidence of both:

(1) the passing of said instruct signal to said controllable apparatus; and

(2) the functioning of said controllable apparatus in response to said instruct signal.

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83. (Amended) A method of communicating mass medium programming to at least one receiver station each of which includes one of a broadcast programming receiver and a cablecast programming receiver, an output device, a control signal detector, a processor operably connected to said output device, and with each said receiver station adapted to detect and respond to at least one instruct signal, said method of communicating comprising the steps of:

[(1)] receiving the mass medium programming to be transmitted [at a transmitter station] and delivering said mass medium programming to [at least one] transmitter <u>apparatus</u>;

[(2)] receiving said at least one instruct signal at said transmitter station, said at least one instruct signal at the receiver station operating to control a receiver station apparatus and store at least one of a code and a datum to serve as evidence of one of:

(a) a passing of said at least one instruct signal to controllable apparatus; and

(b) a functioning of said controllable apparatus in response to said at least one instruct signal;

[(3)] transferring said at least one instruct signal and said at least one of [said] a code and [said] a datum to said [at least one] transmitter apparatus; and

[(4)] transmitting [from said transmitter station at least one information transmission including] said mass medium programming, said at least one instruct signal, and said at least one of [said] a code and [said] a datum.

84. (Unchanged) The method of claim 83, wherein said step of transmitting directs one of a broadcast transmission and a cablecast transmission to a plurality of receiver stations at the same time and each of said plurality of receiver stations one of receives and responds to said at least one instruct signal concurrently.

85. (Unchanged) The method of claim 83, wherein said step of transmitting directs said one of said broadcast transmission and said cablecast transmission to a plurality of receiver stations at different times and each of said plurality of receiver stations responds to said at least one instruct signal at a different time.

86. (Unchanged) The method of claim 83, wherein a switch communicates signals selectively from a receiver and one of a memory and a recorder to said at least one transmitter, said method further comprising one of the steps of:

detecting a first instruct signal which is effective at the transmitter station to instruct communication;

determining a specific program input source from which to communicate a second instruct signal to said at least one transmitter;

controlling said switch to communicate said second instruct signal to said at least one transmitter in response to said first instruct signal which is effective at the transmitter station to instruct communication;

controlling said switch to communicate a third instruct signal from a selected program input receiver; and

controlling said switch to communicate mass medium programming to said one of said memory and said recorder.

87. (Unchanged) The method of claim 83, wherein a controller controls a switch to communicate to said at least one transmitter one of selected mass medium programming and said at least one instruct signal, further comprising one of the steps of:

detecting a first instruct signal which is effective at the transmitter station to instruct transmission;

inputting to said controller a second instruct signal which is effective to control said switch;

controlling said switch to one of communicate at least one mass medium programming presentation and said at least one instruct signal according to a transmission schedule;

controlling said switch to communicate said at least one mass medium programming presentation from a specific one of a plurality of program input receivers; and

controlling said switch to communicate one of said at least one mass medium programming presentation and said at least one instruct signal to a selected one of a plurality of transmitters.

88. (Unchanged) The method of claim 83, further comprising one of the steps of:

transmitting to said at least one receiver station at least one datum that one of designates one of a time and a channel of transmission of said mass medium programming and specifies one of the title of and the subject matter contained in said mass medium program;

transmitting to said at least one receiver station a first instruct signal to cause said receiver station to tune to a specific one of a broadcast transmission and a cablecast transmission; and

causing at least one of said at least one receiver station to cease combining a receiver specific datum with said mass medium programming at a specific time.

89. (Amended) The method of claim 83, wherein said at least one of [said] a code and [said] a datum serves as evidence of both:

(1) the passing of said at least one instruct signal to said controllable apparatus; and

(2) the functioning of said controllable apparatus in response to said at least one instruct signal.

90. (Unchanged) A method of controlling a remote transmitter station to deliver a receiver specific output to a receiver station and controlling said receiver station to communicate at least one receiver specific datum to a remote data collection station, with said receiver station being remote from said remote data collection station comprising the steps of:

(1) receiving at the remote transmitter station at least one instruct signal which operates at the receiver station to perform one of the functions of assembling and communicating receiver specific data to a remote data collection station;

(2) receiving a control signal which operates at the remote transmitter station to control the communication of at least one instruct signal, and communicating said control signal to said remote transmitter station;

(3) monitoring a use of at least one of said control signal and a resource which responds to said control signal;

(4) storing a record of the use of at least one of said control signal and a resource which responds to said control signal from said step of monitoring;

(5) receiving one of a code and a datum designating a specific instruct signal to be transmitted by the remote transmitter station, and said remote transmitter station transferring said designated specific instruct signal to a transmitter; and

(6) transmitting from said remote transmitter station an information transmission comprising at least one designated instruct signal, said at least one designated instruct signal being transmitted at at least one specific time and on at least one specific channel in accordance with said control signal.

91. (Unchanged) The method of claim 90, wherein at least one receiver specific data evidence one of the availability and use of information, and a receiver specific response to said at least one designated instruct signal.

92. (Unchanged) The method of claim 90, wherein said at least one designated instruct signal comprises downloadable code.

G 16 Cont.

93. (Amended) A method for promoting and delivering at least one of a product, service, and a media output for use with an interactive television viewing apparatus comprising the steps of:

displaying a television program that [demonstrates] promotes at least one of a product, a service, and a media output, said interactive television viewing apparatus having an input device to receive input from a viewer;

prompting said viewer during said television program whether said viewer wants said at least one of [said] a product, a service, and [said] a media output [demonstrated] prompted in said step of displaying, said interactive television viewing apparatus having an output device for outputting at least one of said product, said service, and said media output;

G16 Cncld

receiving a reply from said viewer at said input device in response to said step of prompting said viewer, said interactive television viewing apparatus having a processor for processing said viewer reply to perform at least one of the functions of obtaining and enabling instructions which perform at least one of the functions of [generating] providing and controlling output of said at least one of [said] a product, a service, and [said] a media output in response to said instructions;

delivering said instructions at said interactive television viewing apparatus in response to said step of receiving a reply, said instructions controlling said interactive television viewing apparatus in performing a technique for delivering said at least one of [said] a product, a service, and [said] a media output;

processing said instructions from said step of delivering;

performing said technique at said interactive television viewing apparatus, said processor delivering said at least one of [said] a product, a service, and [said] a media output on the basis of said instructions;

monitoring [at] use of at least one of said instructions and a resource which outputs at least a portion of said at least one of a product, a service, and [said] a media output; and

storing a record of said use of said at least one of said instructions and said resource from said step of monitoring.

94. (Unchanged) The method of claim 93, wherein at least one of said instructions is embedded in the non-visible portion of a television signal.

95. (Amended) The method of claim 93, wherein information evidencing one of said technique, and the availability and use of said television program, is one of stored and communicated to a remote data collection station, said method further comprising the step of selecting evidence information that one of identifies and designates at least one:

(1) mass medium program;

(2) use of programming;

(3) transmission station;

(4) receiver station;

(5) network;

(6) broadcast station;

(7) channel on a cable system;

(8) time of transmission;

(9) unique identifier datum;

(10) supplier of data;

(11) [publication, article, publisher,] distributor [,] or advertisement; and

(12) indication of [copyright] a payment obligation.

96. (Amended) The method of claim 93, wherein said instructions incorporate downloadable code, said method further comprising the steps of:

communicating said downloadable code to said processor [, which on the basis of said downloadable code, performs the step of:] ; and

receiving, on the basis of said downloadable code, a signal containing a portion of said television program [or said instructions] .

97. (Amended) The method of claim 93, wherein said interactive television viewing apparatus includes a storage device, said method further comprising the step of:

embedding one of a code and a datum in said television program that enables said interactive television viewing apparatus to [perform one of the functions of locating some downloadable code and controlling] control a presentation of at least one of said product, service, and said media output in accordance with said instructions.

98. (Amended) The method of claim 93, comprising the step of:

programming said interactive television viewing apparatus to query a remote data source [at a particular time] .

99. (Unchanged) The method of claim 93, further comprising the steps of:

storing a subscriber instruction to receive at least one of a specific mass medium program, datum, news item, and a computer control instruction; and

receiving at least one of a specific mass medium program, datum, news item, and a computer control instruction in accordance with said instruction.

100. (Unchanged) The method of claim 93, further comprising the steps of:

programming said processor to respond to information communicated from one of data and a programming source;

receiving an information transmission from one of a local storage device and a remote television programming source;

inputting at least some of said received information transmission to a control signal detector;

detecting one of data and an instruct signal in said information transmission; and

passing one of said detected data and said instruct signal to said processor.

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101. (Amended) The method of claim 93, further comprising the steps of:

storing a subscriber instruction to perform one of the functions of processing and presenting at least one of a mass medium program, datum, [news item,] and a computer control instruction; and

performing one of the functions of processing and presenting at least one specific mass medium program, datum, [news item,] s or computer control instruction in accordance with said instruction.

102. (Unchanged) The method of claim 93, wherein said interactive television viewing apparatus has a plurality of output devices and at least one of said product, service, and media output is delivered at a specific at least one of said plurality of output devices, said method further comprising the steps of:

controlling a selective transmission device to communicate one of data and instructions in respect of at least one of said product, service, and media output to said specific at least one of said plurality of output devices; and

actuating an output device that outputs at least one of video, audio, and a physical product to output some portion of said product, service, or media output on the basis of said communicated some data or instructions in respect of said product, service, or media output.

G19 Cont.

103. (Amended) The method of claim 93, wherein at least one of said instructions is delivered in a multichannel signal transmitted by one of a remote [cable television and a satellite television] transmitter station, said method further comprising the step of:

Q19 Amd

tuning a converter to receive at least one of said instructions.

104. (Unchanged) The method of claim 93, further comprising the steps of:

receiving at least one datum that designate one of one of a time and a channel of transmission of one of said television program and said instructions and that specify one of the title of and some subject matter contained in one of said television program and said instructions; and subsequently

receiving one of said television program and said instructions on the basis of said at least one datum.

Q20 Cnt

105. (Amended) The method of claim 93, wherein said instructions incorporate downloadable code, said method further comprising the steps of:

communicating said downloadable code to said processor [, which on the basis of said downloadable code, performs the step of:] ; and

actuating, on the basis of said downloadable code, at least one of a video, audio, and print output device, as appropriate, to output said at least one of [said] a product, a service, and [said] a media output.

106. (Amended) The method of claim 93, wherein said instructions incorporate downloadable code, said method further comprising the steps of:

communicating said downloadable code to said processor [, which on the basis of said downloadable code, performs the step of:] ; and

decrypting, on the basis of said downloadable code, at least a portion of said television program or said instructions.

107. (Amended) The method of claim 93, wherein said instructions incorporate downloadable code, said method further comprising the steps of:

communicating said downloadable code to said processor [, which on the basis of said downloadable code, performs the step of:] ; and

controlling, on the basis of said downloadable code, a selective transmission device to communicate at least some of said at least one of a product, a service, [or] and a media output to [an] said output device.

108. (Amended) The method of claim 93, wherein said instructions incorporate downloadable code, said method further comprising the steps of:

communicating said downloadable code to said processor [, which on the basis of said downloadable code, performs the step of:] ; and

generating, on the basis of said downloadable code, a receiver specific datum to present with received programming.

109. (Amended) The method of claim 93, wherein said instructions incorporate downloadable code, said method further comprising the steps of:

communicating said downloadable code to said processor [, which on the basis of said downloadable code, performs the step of:] ; and

delivering, on the basis of said downloadable code, a receiver specific datum at said interactive television viewing apparatus simultaneously or sequentially with said television program or said at least one of a product, a service, [or] and a media output.

110. (Amended) The method of claim 93, wherein said interactive television viewing apparatus includes a storage device, said method further comprising the step of:

communicating [a program unit] an identification code to said storage device and storing said [program unit] identification code at a storage location associated with said television program.

111. (Amended) The method of claim 93, wherein said interactive television viewing apparatus includes a storage device, said method further comprising the step of:

communicating to and storing at said storage device some information to evidence one of one of an availability and use of said television program [, said instructions,] and [some downloadable code] a portion of digital data.

Q20 Cancel

112. (Amended) The method of claim 93, wherein said interactive television viewing apparatus includes a storage device, said method further comprising the step of:

storing at said storage device an instruct signal which is effective to generate [some] output to be associated with said at least one of [said] a product, a service, and [said] a media output.

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113. (Unchanged) The method of claim 93, wherein said interactive television viewing apparatus includes a storage device, said method further comprising the step of:

storing at said storage device an instruct signal which is effective to display one of a combined and a sequential presentation of a mass medium program, and a user specific datum.

Q21 Cancel

114. (Amended) The method of claim 93, wherein said interactive television viewing apparatus includes a storage device, said method further comprising the step of:

storing at said storage device an instruct signal which is effective to process a user reaction to content of an information transmission which contains one of said television program and said at least one of [said] a product, a service, and [said] a media output.

115. (Amended) The method of claim 93, wherein said interactive television viewing apparatus includes a storage device, said method further comprising the step of:

storing at said storage device an instruct signal which is effective to [perform one of the functions of communicating to] establish communication with a remote station [query in respect of information to be associated with said television program, and enabling display of at least one of said product, service, and said media output] .

G21 Cmd

116. (Amended) The method of claim 93, wherein said interactive television viewing apparatus includes a storage device, said method further comprising the step of:

storing at said storage device an instruct signal which is effective to control [a user station] said interactive television viewing apparatus to receive information to supplement said television program.

117. (Unchanged) The method of claim 93, wherein said interactive television viewing apparatus includes a storage device, said method further comprising the step of:

storing at said storage device an instruct signal which is effective to process a digital television signal.

G22 Cmd

118. (Amended) The method of claim 93, wherein said interactive television viewing apparatus includes a storage device, said method further comprising the step of:

storing at said storage device one of a code and a datum to serve as a basis for enabling an output device to [display] output at least some of said at least one of [said] a product, a service, and [said] a media output [or for enabling said interactive television viewing apparatus to process some downloadable code] .

119. (Amended) The method of claim 93, comprising the step of [:

delivering at said interactive television viewing apparatus processed information of a stored datum one of simultaneously and sequentially with one of said television

G22 Cmdt

program and at least one of said product, service, and said media output.] discarding one duplicate datum.

120. (Unchanged) The method of claim 93, comprising the step of:

storing said viewer reply for subsequent processing in response to at least one of said instructions.

121. (Unchanged) The method of claim 93, comprising the step of:

assembling and communicating to a remote site data evidencing said viewer reply.

122. (Unchanged) A method of gathering information on the use of at least one of a resource and a control signal at a receiver station, said receiver station having a processor and a controlled device, said receiver station transferring said gathered information to a remote station, said method comprising the steps of:

(1) identifying at least one of a resource and a control signal;

(2) monitoring at least one of said resource and said control signal;

(3) storing a record of the use of at least one of said resource and said control signal from said step of monitoring; and

(4) communicating information evidencing said use of at least one of said resource and said control signal from said step of storing a record from said receiver station to a remote station.

123. (Unchanged) The method of claim 122, wherein at least one of said resource and said control signal is one of a broadcast and a cablecast television signal, said method further comprising the steps of:

selecting information designating programming contained in one of said broadcast and said cablecast television signal; and

communicating said selected information from said step of selecting to said remote station.

124. (Unchanged) The method of claim 122, wherein at least one of said resource and said control signal is one of a broadcast and a cablecast data signal, said method further comprising the steps of:

selecting information designating a function performed in respect of at least one of said resource and said control signal; and

communicating said selected information from said step of selecting to said remote station.

125. (Unchanged) The method of claim 122, further comprising the step:

processing information designating a source of at least one of said resource said control signal; and

communicating said source information from said step of processing to said remote station.

126. (Unchanged) The method of claim 122, further comprising the step:

processing information designating a time in respect of at least one of said resource and said control signal; and

communicating said time information from said step of processing to said remote station.

127. (Unchanged) The method of claim 122, wherein said identified at least one of said resource and said control signal is a resource which performs one of the functions of communicating and responding to a plurality of control signals, said method further comprising the steps of:

selecting information designating at least one of said plurality of control signals; and

communicating said selected information from said step of selecting to said remote station.

128. (Unchanged) The method of claim 122, wherein said identified at least one of said resource and said control signal is a control signal which performs one of the functions of processing and communicating a plurality of resources, said method further comprising the steps of:

selecting information designating at least one of said plurality of resources; and

communicating said selected information from said step of selecting to said remote station.

129. (Unchanged) The method of claim 122, wherein said identified at least one of said resource and said control signal is a signal which is communicated to a plurality of devices, said method further comprising the steps of:

selecting information designating at least one of said plurality of devices; and

communicating said selected information from said step of selecting to said remote station.

Sub G23 15 Cont

130. (Amended) The method of claim 122, wherein the stored evidence information performs one of the functions of identifying and designating at least one of:

(1) a mass medium program;

(2) a proper use of programming;

(3) a transmission station;

(4) a receiver station;

(5) a network;

(6) a broadcast station;

(7) a channel on a cable system;

(8) a time of transmission;

(9) a unique identifier datum;

(10) a source or supplier of data;

(11) at least one of a [publication, article, publisher,] distributor [,] and an advertisement; and

(12) an indication of [copyright] a payment obligation.

131. (Unchanged) The method of claim 122, wherein at least one of said resource and said control signal is received from a local source, said method further comprising the step of:

storing one of a code and a datum which is operative to identify one of said resource and said control signal.

132. (Amended) A method for gathering an identifying signal from a plurality of identifying signals generated by passing a control signal [from] at a receiver station to at least one controlled device, said receiver station having an input and an output, a processor and a storage device, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving a control signal at said receiver station;

detecting said control signal at said receiver station;

passing said control signal from a detector to said at least one controlled device;

generating based on said step of passing said control signal, a plurality of signals that identify [the] characteristics of said control signal in said step of passing;

selecting at least one identifying signal from said plurality of identifying signals based on said step of generating said identifying signals; and

G24 Cncld storing said at least one identifying signal based on said step of selecting said at least one identifying signal in said storage device.

133. (Unchanged) The method of claim 132, further comprising the step of communicating said stored at least one identifying signal based on said step of storing from said receiver station to an external data collection station.

G25 134. (Amended) The method of claim 133, further comprising the step of: generating a bill one of at and from said at least one remote data collection station based on said at least one identifying [data transferred] signal communicated to said [at least one remote] external data collection station.

135. (Unchanged) The method of claim 132, wherein said at least one identifying signal identifies a source of said control signal.

136. (Unchanged) The method of claim 132, wherein said at least one identifying signal identifies a supplier of said control signal.

137. (Unchanged) The method of claim 132, wherein said at least one identifying signal identifies a content of said control signal.

138. (Unchanged) The method of claim 132, wherein said at least one identifying signal identifies one of a time and a period of time.

139. (Unchanged) The method of claim 132, wherein said at least one identifying signal identifies a function performed at said receiver station in consequence of said control signal.

G26

140. (Amended) The method of claim 132, wherein said at least one identifying signal identifies [a] programming outputted at said receiver station in consequence of said control signal.

141. (Unchanged) The method of claim 132, wherein said at least one identifying signal identifies apparatus controlled at said receiver station in consequence of said control signal.

142. (Unchanged) The method of claim 132, further comprising the step of discarding at least one of said plurality of identifying signals.

143. (Unchanged) The method of claim 142, wherein said discarded at least one of said plurality of identifying signals includes a duplicate identifying signal.

144. (Unchanged) The method of claim 132, wherein said step of generating includes creating said at least one identifying signal by appending digital information.

145. (Unchanged) The method of claim 144, wherein said appended digital information includes a first of said plurality of signals that identify characteristics.

146. (Unchanged) The method of claim 132, wherein said step of generating includes counting.

147. (Unchanged) The method of claim 132, wherein said step of generating results in a record.

148. (Unchanged) A method of communicating subscriber station information including identifying data from a subscriber station to at least one remote data collection station, said method comprising the steps of:

inputting one of a viewer's and participant's reaction to mass medium programming at a subscriber station;

receiving at said subscriber station an indication of at least one of a control signal to process and an output to deliver in consequence of a specific subscriber input;

determining a presence of said specific subscriber input at said subscriber station by processing said one of a viewer's and participant's reaction to mass medium programming;

processing said control signal, said control signal causing an effect of controlling one or more receiver station apparatus and at least one of code and data to serve as evidence of passing said control signal to at least one controllable device and of functioning of said controlled one or more receiver station apparatus in response to said instruct signal at said subscriber station in consequence of said step of determining; and

transferring from said subscriber station to at least one remote data collection station a plurality of indicia confirming processing of said control signal and said control signal effect from said step of processing.

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149. (Amended) The method of claim 148, wherein said instruct signal is input by a subscriber, said method further comprising the steps of:

storing a subscriber instruction to receive one of a specific mass medium programs, data, [New Claims] news items, and computer control instructions; and

receiving one of said specific mass medium programs, data, [New Claims] news items, and computer control instructions in accordance with said subscriber instruction.

150. (Unchanged) The method of claim 148, wherein said method of communicating uses a telephone interface.

151. (Amended) A method of controlling a remote intermediate mass medium program transmitter station to communicate mass medium program material to a remote receiver station and controlling said remote receiver station to deliver an individualized mass medium program presentation, said method of controlling comprising the steps of:

(1) receiving mass medium programming to be transmitted by the remote intermediate mass medium transmitter station and delivering said mass medium programming to a transmitter;

(2) receiving at least one receiver control signal at said remote intermediate mass medium transmitter station, said at least one receiver control signal being operative at the remote receiver station to control [one or more] receiver station apparatus and including [a plurality of] at least one of code and data to serve as evidence of passing said at least one receiver control signal to at least one controllable device and of the functioning of said controlled one or more receiver station apparatus in response to said at least one receiver control signal;

(3) receiving at least one transmitter control signal at said remote intermediate mass medium transmitter station, said at least one transmitter control signal is effective at said remote intermediate mass medium transmitter station to control the communication of at least one of said mass medium programming and said at least one receiver control signal; and

(4) causing said remote intermediate mass medium transmitter station to transmit in accordance with said at least one transmitter control signal an information transmission comprising one of said mass medium programming and said at least one receiver control signal.

G28 Cmdd.

152. (Amended) The method of claim 151, wherein said mass medium program material includes audio [or text] .

153. (Unchanged) The method of claim 151, wherein said mass medium program material includes a television program.

G29 Cmd

154. (Amended) A method of communicating at least one television signal to at least one receiver station [each of] which includes one of a broadcast television receiver and a cablecast television receiver, a television monitor, a signal detector, a processor operatively connected to said [television monitor] signal detector, said processor [programmed detect a presence of] adapted to respond to at least one control signal [in one of a broadcast transmission and a cablecast transmission] , said method comprising the steps of:

receiving television programming at a transmitter station and delivering said television programming to a first transmitter;

receiving [and storing] said at least one control signal at [said] transmitter station apparatus, said at least one control signal being operative at [the] said at least one of receiver station to control [at least one] a plurality of controllable receiver station [apparatus and including at least one of code and data to serve as evidence of at least one of passing said at least one control signal to a controllable device and of the functioning of said controlled at least one [controllabe] controllable receiver station apparatus based on said at least one control signal] devices;

transferring said at least one control signal [from said transmitter station to] one of said first transmitter and a second transmitter; and

transmitting, to said at least one receiver station, said television programming [and] , said at least one control signal [from said transmitter station to said at least one

receiver station] and at least one of code and data to serve as evidence of passing portions of said at least one control signal to said plurality of controllable receiver station devices and of functioning of said plurality of controllable receiver station devices based on said at least one control signal.

G29 Cont.

155. (Amended) A media receiving apparatus for gathering at least one identifying signal from a plurality of identifying signals comprising:

[an] input [port] apparatus for receiving media signals;

an output port;

a storage device;

a processor operatively connected to said input [port,] apparatus, said output port, and said storage device, said processor programmed for:

receiving a media signal from said input [port;] apparatus;

detecting a control signal from said media signal;

passing said control signal from said media signal, to said output port, said output port transferring said control signal to an external device;

generating said plurality of identifying signals that identify characteristics of said control signal from the step of passing said control signal;

selecting said at least one identifying signal from said plurality of identifying signals from said step of generating said plurality of identifying signals; and

storing said at least one identifying signal from said step of selecting at least one said identifying signal in said storage device.

156. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 155, further comprising:

a telephone interface operatively connected to said processor;

said processor further programmed for:

G29 Cont'd

communicating said at least one identifying signal from said storage device to an external data collection station with said telephone interface.

157. (Unchanged) The apparatus of claim 155, wherein said output port is connected to said external device.

158. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 157, wherein said external device is selected from a group consisting of:

G30 Cont'd

a heater, an air conditioner, a radio receiver, a [laser disc] player, a computer, a storage device, a tuner, and a printer.

159. (Amended) A method of delivering and gathering information on [the] use of a multiple use control signal in a communications network, said network having a transmitter station and a receiver station, said transmitter station communicating commands to a computer program stored at said receiver station and receiving information from said receiver station, said receiver station having an input device, a processor for executing said computer program and for receiving said commands from said transmitter station and for transmitting information to a remote station, and a computer for using multiple use control signals and said commands directed to said computer program, said method comprising the steps of:

inputting a command at said input device;

receiving at said receiver station an indication of a multiple use control signal from said remote station;

processing at said receiver station said indication of said multiple use control signal in accordance with said computer program;

communicating a computer output to a computer peripheral and controlling a presentation of media programming in accordance with said multiple use control signal;

communicating from said receiver station to said transmitter station data that represents a record of the use of said media programming or said multiple use control signal.

160. (Amended) The method of claim 159, further comprising the step of:

G30 Cnf.

programming said receiver station to use said commands to tune to, receive, locate, [assemble,] organize, communicate, select or identify a multiple use control signal.

161. (Amended) A method for gathering information on the selection of one of a decryption key and a decryption code from a plurality of [first] decryption signals stored at a receiver station, said receiver station having an input for receiving a selection signal from an external source, a processor for selecting said one of a decryption key and a decryption code, and a storage device for storing said plurality of [first] decryption signals, said method comprising the steps of:

storing [said] a plurality of first decryption signals in said storage device;

indexing said plurality of first decryption signals to provide an index [of] containing a second plurality of decryption signals;

receiving a signal from an external source, said signal indicating a selection of said one of a decryption key and a decryption code from one of said plurality of first decryption signals and said second plurality of decryption signals by locating said one of a decryption key and a decryption code with said index [of said plurality of first decryption signals] ;

selecting said one of a decryption key and a decryption code [from said second plurality of decryption signals] based on said index [of said plurality of first of decryption signals] ;

loading said one of a decryption key and a decryption code to a decryption device; and

storing information in said storage device that reflects the selection of said one of a decryption key and a decryption code.

G30 Cncld

162. (Unchanged) The method of claim 161, wherein said plurality of first decryption signals includes a plurality of codes.

163. (Unchanged) The method of claim 162, wherein said second plurality of decryption signals includes one or more of said plurality of codes.

164. (Unchanged) The method of claim 161, wherein said plurality of first decryption signals includes a plurality of keys.

165. (Unchanged) The method of claim 164, wherein each of said plurality of keys programs said receiver station with a pattern.

166. (Unchanged) The method of claim 165, wherein one of said plurality of keys programs said receiver station with a varying pattern.

167. (Unchanged) The method of claim 165, wherein one of said plurality of keys programs said receiver station with a pattern of composition.

168. (Unchanged) The method of claim 165, wherein one of said plurality of keys programs said receiver station with a location of at least one of said second plurality of decryption signals.

169. (Unchanged) The method of claim 165, wherein one of said plurality of keys programs said receiver station with a pattern of timing of the transmission of at least one of said second plurality of decryption signals.

170. (Unchanged) The method of claim 165, wherein said step of selecting comprises selecting code necessary for decryption in accordance with one of said plurality of keys.

171. (Unchanged) The method of claim 170, wherein said one of a decryption key and a decryption code includes said code necessary for decryption.

172. (Unchanged) The method of claim 170, wherein said code necessary for decryption is stored in said storage device.

173. (Unchanged) The method of claim 161, wherein said step of indexing comprises informing said receiver station of a fashion for identifying or locating a plurality of signals necessary for decryption.

174. (Unchanged) The method of claim 173, wherein each of said plurality of signals necessary for decryption provides a different decryption code.

175. (Unchanged) The method of claim 173, wherein at least two of said plurality of signals necessary for decryption are used to decrypt different transmissions.

176. (Unchanged) The method of claim 175, wherein said different transmissions are received from different sources.

177. (Unchanged) The method of claim 176, wherein one transmission signal contains said different transmissions.

178. (Unchanged) The method of claim 177, wherein said one transmission signal includes a television signal and said different transmissions comprise different portions of said television signal.

179. (Unchanged) The method of claim 178, wherein said television signal contains at least one of said second plurality of decryption signals.

180. (Unchanged) The method of claim 178, wherein a first portion of said one transmission signal contains said television signal and said at least one of said second plurality of decryption signals is transmitted in a second portion of said one transmission signal which is separate from said first portion of said one transmission signal.

G3/ 9 Cont.

181. (Amended) A method of controlling a plurality of receiver stations each of which includes a television receiver, a signal detector, a processor, and with each said receiver station adapted to detect the presence of one or more control signals and programmed to process downloadable code, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving at a transmitter station downloadable code which is effective to control a receiver station apparatus and a first code or datum to serve as evidence of passing of said downloadable code, each of said plurality of receiver stations having a target processor to process data;

transferring said downloadable code to a transmitter;

receiving one or more control signals at said transmitter station, said one or more control signals operating to execute a portion of said downloadable code;

G31 Cancel

receiving a second code or datum which operates to evidence a function performed by said downloadable code; and

transferring said one or more control signals to said transmitter, and transmitting an information transmission comprising the downloadable code [and] , said one or more control signals, and at least one of said first code or datum [or] and said second code or datum.

182. (Unchanged) The method of claim 181, wherein a television program is displayed at a receiver station and said downloadable code programs said receiver station processor or computer to output video, audio, or text in the context of said television program or to process a viewer reaction to said television program or to select information that supplements said television program content.

183. (Unchanged) The method of claim 181, wherein said information transmission is transmitted to two of said plurality of receiver stations at the same time and each of said two receiver stations respond to some part of said control signal or downloadable code at the same time.

184. (Unchanged) The method of claim 181, wherein said information transmission is transmitted to two of said plurality of receiver stations at different times and each of said two receiver stations receive and respond to said control signal or said downloadable code asynchronously.

185. (Unchanged) The method of claim 181, further comprising the steps of receiving said downloadable code at a receiver in the transmitter station, communicating said downloadable code from said receiver to a memory location, and storing said

downloadable code at said memory location for a period of time prior to communicating said downloadable code to a transmitter.

186. (Unchanged) The method of claim 181, wherein at least one receiver station is adapted to detect the presence of said control signal or programmed to respond to said downloadable code on the basis of a pattern of signal composition, said method further comprising the step of composing at least some of said control signal or said downloadable code in said pattern.

187. (Unchanged) The method of claim 181, wherein at least one receiver station is adapted to detect the presence of said control signal or programmed to respond to said downloadable code on the basis of the location of a signal in an information transmission, said method further comprising the step of causing at least some of said control signal or downloadable code to be transmitted in said location.

188. (Unchanged) The method of claim 181, wherein at least one receiver station is adapted to detect the presence of said control signal or programmed to respond to said downloadable code on the basis of a timing pattern of signal transmission, said method further comprising the step of causing at least some of said control signal or said downloadable code to be transmitted in accordance with said pattern.

G32 Cont.

189. (Amended) A method of controlling a remote intermediate mass medium transmitter station to communicate program material to a remote receiver station and controlling said remote receiver station to process a receiver specific response, said method of controlling comprising the steps of:

receiving a unit of mass medium programming to be transmitted by the remote intermediate mass medium transmitter station and delivering said unit of mass medium programming to a transmitter;

receiving one or more instruct signals and a first code or datum at said remote intermediate mass medium transmitter station, said one or more instruct signals operate at the remote receiver station to control a receiver station apparatus and said first code or datum operate to serve as evidence of the passing of said one or more instruct signals to a controllable device or of the functioning of said controllable apparatus in response to said one or more instruct signals, and communicating said one or more instruct signals and said first code or datum to said transmitter;

receiving one or more control signals at said remote intermediate mass medium transmitter station, said one or more control signals control the communication of said unit of programming, said one or more instruct signals, and said first code or datum [between] from said remote intermediate mass medium transmitter station [and] to said receiver station;

receiving a second code of datum which operates to identify said unit of mass medium programming; and

transmitting from said remote intermediate mass medium transmitter station an information transmission comprising said unit of mass medium programming, said one or more instruct signals and said first code or datum.

190. (Amended) The method of claim 189, wherein said one or more control signals are effective at the remote transmission station to control one or more of a plurality of selective transfer devices prior to [said] a specific time.

191. (Unchanged) The method of claim 189, further comprising the step of embedding one of said one or more control signals in said unit of mass medium

programming before transmitting said unit of mass medium programming to said remote transmitter station.

192. (Amended) The method of claim 189, wherein said one or more control signals is effective at the remote transmitter station to communicate said unit of mass medium programming to a plurality of transmitters [or to a transmitter a plurality of times] .

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193. (Amended) The method of claim 189, wherein said one or more control signals include a schedule which identifies said unit of mass medium programming based on said second code or datum, said method further comprising the step of:

transmitting a schedule which operates at the remote transmitter station to communicate said unit of medium programming to a transmitter at [said] a specific time.

194. (Unchanged) A method of controlling a remote intermediate data transmitter station to communicate data to one or more receiver stations, with said remote transmitter station including a broadcast or cablecast transmitter for transmitting one or more signals which are effective at a receiver station to instruct a computer or processor, a plurality of selective transfer devices each operatively connected to said broadcast or cablecast transmitter, a data receiver for receiving information from an origination transmitter station, a control signal detector, and a controller or computer capable of controlling one or more of said selective transfer devices, and with said remote transmitter station adapted to detect the presence of one or more control signals, to control the communication of said one or more instruct signals in response to said one or more control signals, and to deliver at said broadcast or cablecast transmitter said one or more instruct signals, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving at said origination transmitter station an instruct signal to be transmitted by the remote intermediate data transmitter station and delivering said instruct signal to an origination transmitter, said instruct signal being effective at the receiver station to generate output information content which is effective to control a receiver station apparatus and to communicate a first code or datum to serve as evidence of the passing of said instruct signal to a controllable device or of the functioning of said controllable apparatus in response to said instruct signal, said first code or datum designating signal content or output information content to be generated;

receiving one or more control signals which at the remote intermediate data transmitter station operate to control the communication of said instruct signal; and

transferring said one or more control signals to said origination transmitter before a specific time, said origination transmitter transmitting said instruct signal, said first code or datum, and said one or more control signals.

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195. (Amended) The method of claim 194, wherein said one or more control signals include a schedule which identifies said unit of mass medium programming based on [said] a second code or datum, said method further comprising the step of:

transmitting a second instruct signal which operates at the remote intermediate data transmitter station at said specific time to communicate said instruct signal to a transmitter.

196. (Unchanged) The method of claim 194, wherein said specific time is a scheduled time of transmitting said instruct signal or a program associated with said instruct signal from said remote intermediate data transmitter station and said one or more control signals is effective at the remote intermediate data transmitter station to control one or more of said plurality of selective transmission devices at different times.

G35 Cont.

197. (Amended) A method for delivering at least one control signal and computer programming to a subscriber and billing said subscriber for [the] use of said at least one control signal and said computer programming in a communications network, said communications network having at least one transmitter station and at least one receiver station, said at least one transmitter station being capable of communicating programming instructions, said at least one receiver station having an input device for inputting a command, at least one processor for receiving said programming instructions and communicating [said] billing records, and a computer for using said at least one control signal and said computer programming, said method comprising the steps of:

transmitting from said at least one transmitter station to said at least one receiver station operating instructions associated with at least one of said command and said at least one control signal, said operating instructions being effective to program said at least one receiver station to respond in a predetermined fashion to at least one of said command and said at least one control signal;

inputting said command at said input device;

inputting said at least one control signal from said at least one transmitter station at said at least one receiver station;

comparing information designated by said command to information designated by said at least one control signal;

processing said computer programming and communicating computer output to a computer peripheral [location] <u>device</u> in accordance with said operating instructions based on said step of comparing;

outputting said computer output at said computer peripheral location; and

communicating to a remote station at least one datum <u>evidencing use</u> of at least one of said command, said at least one control signal, said computer programming, and said computer output to enable said remote station to bill said subscriber for the use of said at least one control signal or said computer programming.

Sub I7 G35 9 Cont.

198. (Amended) A method for tracking results of a comparison of control signals at a receiver station in a communications network, said network having at least one transmitter station and at least one receiver station, [said at least one transmitter station transmitting a request for user input,] said at least one receiver station having at least one processor, at least one storage device, and at least one input device adapted to receive user input, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving at said at least one input device at least one user input based on [said] a request for user input;

storing said at least one user input at said at least one storage device;

receiving at said at least one receiver station at least one information transmission from said at least one transmitter station, said at least one information transmission including processor instructions;

comparing information [contained in said received at least one information transmission] stored at said at least one processor with said stored at least one user input based on said received at least one information transmission;

authorizing [the] processing at said at least one receiver station of said processor instructions based on the result from said step of comparing;

recording a result of said step of comparing at said at least one storage device.

199. (Amended) The method of claim 198, wherein said step of authorizing [the] processing of said processor instructions employs an instruct to decrypt signal [communicated as a result of said step of comparing] .

200. (Amended) A method of controlling at least one of a plurality of receiver stations each of which includes a television receiver, a control signal detector, a processor, and with each said receiver station adapted to detect a presence of at least one

control signal and being programmed to process downloadable code, said method comprising the steps of:

(1) receiving said downloadable code which is effective at said at least one receiver station to control a receiver station apparatus and to communicate at least one of a code and a datum to serve as one of evidence of the passing of [an instruct] a signal to a controllable device and the functioning of said controllable device in response to said [instruct] signal, and delivering said downloadable code to a transmitter;

G35 9 Cnt

(2) receiving at least one control signal which operates at said at least one receiver station to execute a portion of said downloadable code at said processor; and

(3) causing said at least one control signal to be communicated to said transmitter at a specific time, thereby to transmit an information transmission comprising said downloadable code and said at least one control signal.

201. (Amended) The method of claim 200, wherein a television program is displayed at said at least one receiver station and said downloadable code programs said processor [to perform at least one of: (a)] output [at least one of] video [, audio, and text] in [the context of] said television program [, (b) process a subscriber reaction to said television program, and (c) select information that supplements the content of said television program] .

202. (Amended) The method of claim 200, wherein said information transmission is transmitted to at least two of said plurality of receiver stations at the same time and each of said at least two receiver stations responds to [at least one of] said [at least one] control signal [and said downloadable code at the same time] .

203. (Amended) The method of claim 200, wherein said information transmission is transmitted to at least two of said plurality of receiver stations at different

G35 Cmdd

times and each of said at least two receiver stations receives and responds to [at least one of] said at least one control signal [and said downloadable code] asynchronously.

204. (Unchanged) The method of claim 200, wherein said at least one control signal incorporates said downloadable code.

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205. (Amended) The method of claim 200, further comprising the steps of receiving said downloadable code at a receiver in said transmitter station, communicating said downloadable code from said receiver to a memory location, and storing said downloadable code at said memory location for a period of time prior to communicating said downloadable code [to] from said transmitter.

206. (Unchanged) The method of claim 200, wherein at least one of said plurality of receiver stations is adapted to detect the presence of said at least one control signal and programmed to respond to said downloadable code on the basis of a pattern of signal composition, said method further comprising the step of composing at least one of said at least one control signal and said downloadable code in said pattern.

207. (Unchanged) The method of claim 200, wherein at least one of said plurality of receiver stations is adapted to detect the presence of said at least one control signal and programmed to respond to said downloadable code on the basis of the location of a signal in said information transmission, said method further comprising the step of causing at least one of said at least one control signal and said downloadable code to be transmitted in said location.

208. (Unchanged) The method of claim 200, wherein at least one of said plurality of receiver stations is adapted to detect the presence of said at least one control

signal and programmed to respond to said downloadable code on the basis of a timing pattern of signal transmission, said method further comprising the step of causing at least one of said at least one control signal and said downloadable code to be transmitted in accordance with said timing pattern.

209. (Unchanged) The method of claim 200, wherein at least one of said downloadable code and identification data in respect of said downloadable code is embedded in one of a television signal and a signal containing a television program.

G37 Cont.

210. (Amended) A method of processing signals at a receiver station, said receiver station having a computer to deliver at a television monitor one [of a combined and a sequential presentation] image of television programming [and a user specific output] based on programming delivered at said receiver station at different times, said method comprising the steps of:

storing user data of interest;

receiving television programming from a television programming source [and displaying said television programming at said television monitor] ;

receiving an information transmission including at least one instruct signal which is effective to control at least one controllable device at said receiver station, and receiving at least one of a code and a datum to serve as evidence of at least one of the passing of said at least one instruct signal to said at least one controllable device, and the functioning of said at least one controllable device in response to said at least one instruct signal;

detecting said at least one instruct signal in said information transmission;

controlling said computer based on said detected at least one instruct signal, said step of controlling comprising:

(1) selecting and communicating a first portion of said [stored user data of interest] image to said television monitor;

(2) communicating [said selected] a second portion of said [stored user data of interest] image to said television monitor based on said stored user data of interest; and subsequently

(3) ceasing to [communicate said selected portion of said stored user data of interest to] display said image at said television monitor;

delivering said [one of a combined and a sequential presentation of said television programming and said selected portion of said stored user data of interest] image at said television monitor in the period of time between said step of communicating [said selected portion to said television monitor] and said step of ceasing to [communicate said selected portion to said television monitor] display, said image based on programming received at said receiver station at different times ; and

performing at least one of:

(1) storing said at least one of a code and a datum at said receiver station; and

(2) communicating said at least one of a code and a datum from said receiver station to at least one remote data collection station.

211. (Unchanged) The method of claim 210, further comprising the step of generating said user data of interest in response to said detected at least one instruct signal.

212. (Unchanged) The method of claim 210, further comprising any one of the steps of:

programming said receiver station to process subscriber data of interest and to respond to at least one instruct signal associated with said television programming;

receiving a command embedded in or associated with a signal that contains said television programming;

storing a locally input command that designates one of:

(1) a television program to be at least one of displayed and recorded;

(2) a fashion in which to present at least one of said television programming and computer output; and

(3) a time in which to display said at least one of said television programming and computer output;

controlling said computer to process a subscriber reaction to at least one of said television programming and an image displayed at said television monitor, said step of controlling comprising the steps of:

(1) assembling a record that includes data in addition to said subscriber reaction; and

(2) transmitting said record to a remote data collection station;

controlling said computer to process said subscriber reaction to at least one of said television programming and said image displayed at said television monitor, said step of controlling comprising the steps of:

(1) detecting a datum that identifies at least one of said television programming and said image displayed at said television monitor; and

(2) transmitting said datum to said remote data collection station;

controlling said computer to process said subscriber reaction to at least one of said television programming and said image displayed at said television monitor, said step of controlling comprising the steps of:

(1) storing a datum that identifies at least one of said television programming and said image displayed at said television monitor; and

(2) passing data regarding at least one of the availability, use and usage of at least one of said television programming and said image to said computer that controls at

least one of the selection and communication of program materials for display at said receiver station; and

controlling said computer to process said subscriber reaction to at least one of said television programming and said image displayed at said television monitor, said step of controlling comprising the steps of:

(1) controlling at least one of a receiver to receive and a storage location to communicate a unit of programming associated with at least one of said television programming and said image in response to said subscriber reaction; and

(2) outputting said communicated unit of programming at an output device of said receiver station.

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213. (Amended) A method of controlling at least one of a plurality of receiver stations each of which includes a mass medium program receiver, a signal detector, at least one computer or processor, and with each of said receiver [station] stations adapted to detect the presence of at least one control signal and to input a first subscriber reaction to an offer communicated in a mass medium program, said method comprising the steps of:

G38 Cont.

[(1)] receiving at least one instruct signal at a transmitter station and delivering said at least one instruct signal to a transmitter, said instruct signal being effective at said at least one of [said] a plurality of receiver stations, to control at least one controllable device and to assemble a record containing at least one of a first code and [a] datum to serve as evidence of at least one of: (a) the passing of said at least one instruct signal to said at least one controllable device, and (b) the functioning of said at least one controllable device in response to said at least one instruct signal;

[(2)] receiving said at least one of a second code and [a] datum at said transmitter station, said at least one of a code and a datum designating at least one of said at least one instruct signal and said [subscriber reaction] condition;

[(3)] receiving said at least one control signal at said transmitter station, said at least one control signal operating at said at least one of said plurality of receiver stations to execute said at least one instruct signal based on [said] a second subscriber reaction;

[(4)] transferring at least one of said at least one of a code and a datum and said at least one control signal to said transmitter at a specific time; and

[(5)] transmitting said at least one instruct signal, said at least one of [a] said second code and a datum, and said at least one control signal.

G38 G Cont.

214. (Amended) The method of claim 213, wherein said at least one control signal is effective to output a subscriber order for a product or service designated by said offer, said method further comprising the steps of communicating to said transmitter and transmitting information which is effective at said at least one of a plurality of receiver [station] stations to select or assemble specific information to communicate to a remote data collection site.

215. (Amended) The method of claim 213, further comprising the steps of receiving at least one of said at least one control signal and said at least one of a code and a datum at [said] a receiver in said transmitter station, communicating said received at least one of said at least one control signal [or] and said at least one of a code and a datum from said receiver to a memory location, and storing said received at least one of said at least one control signal [or] and said at least one of a code and a datum at said memory location for a period of time prior to communicating said received at least one of said at least one control signal [or] and said at least one of a code and a datum to said transmitter.

Sub I8

216. (Amended) A method of processing signals at a receiver station having a computer, a programmable controller, and an output device, said computer being

programmed to store [one or more] user data and [present output] communicate information based on said stored [one or more] user data, said programmable controller being programmed to control said receiver station in response to instructions from a remote supplier, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving [an information transmission containing] downloadable [code;] processor instructions;

G38 Cont.

(b) detecting said downloadable [code;] processor instructions;

(c) passing [some] a portion of said downloadable [code] processor instructions selectively to a [selected] first apparatus;

(d) [controlling] executing a portion of said downloadable processor instructions at said programmable controller [based on said downloadable code] ;

(e) controlling said computer [based on] in accordance with said downloadable [code;] processor instructions; and

(f) storing information evidencing a function performed by or initiated by said [selected] first apparatus in consequence of downloadable [code] processor instructions having been passed selectively to said [selected] first apparatus.

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217. (Unchanged) A method of controlling a remote television transmitter station to communicate television program material to one or more receiver stations, with said remote television transmitter station including a broadcast or cablecast transmitter for transmitting television programming, a plurality of selective transfer devices each operatively connected to said broadcast or cablecast transmitter for communicating said television programming, a television receiver for receiving said television programming from at least one origination transmitter station, a control signal detector, and a controller or computer capable of controlling one or more of said selective transfer devices, and with said remote transmitter station adapted to detect the presence of one or more control signals, to control the communication of said television programming in response to said

one or more control signals, and to deliver at its broadcast or cablecast transmitter said television programming, said method comprising the steps of:

(1) receiving said television programming at said at least one origination transmitter station and delivering said television programming to at least one origination transmitter, said television programming having an associated instruct signal which is effective at said one or more receiver stations to control a receiver station apparatus and having a code or datum to serve as evidence of the passing of said instruct signal to a controllable device or of a functioning of said controllable apparatus in response to said instruct signal;

(2) receiving said one or more control signals which at the remote intermediate television transmitter station operate to control the communication of a specific one or more of said plurality of units of television programming; and

(3) transmitting said one or more control signals to said at least one origination transmitter before a specific time.

218. (Unchanged) The method of claim 217, wherein said one or more control signals comprise a code or datum which operates at the remote intermediate television transmitter station to identify said specific television programming, said method further comprising the step of:

transmitting a schedule which operates at the remote intermediate television transmitter station to communicate said specific television programming to a transmitter at said specific time.

G39 Cont.

219. (Amended) The method of claim 217, wherein said specific time is a scheduled time of transmitting said television programming at said remote intermediate television transmitter station or said one or more control signals are effective at the

remote intermediate television transmitter station to control one or more of said plurality of selective [transmission] transfer devices at different times.

220. (Amended) A method of processing signals at a receiver station to deliver an output to supplement mass medium programming, said receiver station having a processor, a storage device, and one or more output devices, with at least one of said one or more output devices adapted to output mass medium programming, said method comprising the steps of:

G 39 Cont.

[(1)] receiving mass medium programming at said receiver station from a mass medium programming source and outputting the mass medium programming at an output device, said output device adapted to output mass medium programming;

[(2)] receiving a broadcast or cablecast information transmission at said receiver station, said information transmission including one or more instruct signals to direct output to supplement said ~~mass medium~~ programming;

[(3)] detecting a instruct signal in said information transmission and passing said detected instruct signal to a processor; and

[(4)] controlling said processor based on said detected instruct signal, said step of controlling comprising:

(a) receiving [a] an instruct signal which is effective to control a receiver station apparatus, a code or datum to serve as evidence of the passing of said instruct signal to a controllable device or of the functioning of said controllable apparatus in response to said instruct signal, [and output to supplement said mass medium programming on the basis of stored user data of interest;

(b) outputting said supplemental output at an output device on the basis of said received instruct signal]

(b) outputting said instruct signal to provide supplemental output on the basis of stored user data of interest; and

outputting said output to supplement mass medium programming at an output device on the basis of said received instruct signal.

221. (Amended) The method of claim 220, wherein said [selected specific output is] output to supplement mass medium programming comprises video, [audio,] text, or electronic data, said method further comprising one selected from the group consisting of:

G39 Amt.

(1) actuating [a video, audio, or print] an output device, as appropriate, to output said [selected specific output] output to supplement mass medium programming comprises;

(2) decrypting at least a portion of said [selected specific output] output to supplement mass medium programming comprises; and

(3) controlling a selective transmission device to communicate said [selected specific output] output to supplement mass medium programming comprises to said [selected specific] output device.

222. (Amended) A method of controlling one or more of a plurality of receiver stations each of which includes a television receiver, a signal detector, at least one computer or processor, and with each said receiver station adapted to detect the presence of one or more control signals and to input a viewer reaction to a specific offer communicated in a television program, said method comprising the steps of:

(1) receiving a first code or datum at a transmitter station, wherein said code or datum designates a product or service offered in a television program or a viewer reaction to an offer communicated in a television program;

(2) receiving an instruct signal and a second code or datum at said transmitter station, wherein said instruct signal at the one or more receiver stations operates to control a receiver station apparatus and said second code or datum to serve as evidence of

the passing of said instruct signal to a controllable device or of the functioning of said controllable apparatus in response to said instruct signal;

G39 Cncld

(3) transferring at least one of said first code or datum and said instruct signal to a transmitter at said transmitter station at a specific time; and

(4) transmitting said instruct signal and at least one of (i) said first code or datum and (ii) said second code or datum from said transmitter station.

223. (Unchanged) The method of claim 222, wherein a television program is displayed at said one or more receiver stations and said instruct signal directs the output of video, audio, or text to supplement said television program or said television program prompts a subscriber to react, said method further comprising the steps of communicating to said transmitter and transmitting a second instruct signal which is effective at said one or more receiver stations to process a subscriber reaction.

G40

224. (Amended) The method of claim 222, wherein a television program is displayed at said one or more receiver stations and a first instruct signal directs said one or more receiver stations to process a subscriber reaction to said television program, said method further comprising the steps of communicating to said transmitter and transmitting a second instruct signal which is effective at a receiver station to [locate, identify, or determine] respond to the presence of said subscriber reaction.

225. (Unchanged) The method of claim 222, wherein said instruct signal is effective to output a subscriber order for said designated product or service, said method further comprising the steps of communicating to said transmitter and transmitting a second instruct signal which is effective at the receiver station to select or assemble specific information to communicate to a remote data collection site.

226. (Unchanged) The method of claim 222, further comprising the steps of receiving said instruct signal or said first code or datum at a receiver in the transmitter station, communicating said received instruct signal or said received first code or datum from said receiver to a memory location, and storing said received instruct signal or said received first code or datum at said memory location for a period of time prior to communicating said received instruct signal or said received first code or datum to a transmitter.

227. (Unchanged) The method of claim 222, wherein at least one receiver station is adapted to detect the presence of said instruct signal or said first or second code or datum on the basis of a varying pattern of signal composition, said method further comprising the step of composing at least some of said instruct signal or said first or second code or datum to be transmitted in said varying pattern.

228. (Unchanged) The method of claim 222, wherein at least one receiver station is adapted to detect the presence of said instruct signal or said first or second code or datum on the basis of a varying location of a signal in an information transmission, said method further comprising the step of causing at least some of said instruct signal or said first or second code or datum to be transmitted in said varying location.

229. (Unchanged) A method of processing signals to control a mass medium programming presentation comprising the steps of:

receiving a programming signal containing mass medium programming and communicating said programming signal to a storage device;

receiving at least a first downloadable instruction which is effective at a user station to control a processor and a first code or datum to serve as evidence of the passing

of said at least a first downloadable instruction to said processor or of the functioning of said processor in response to said at least a first downloadable instruction;

communicating said at least a first downloadable instruction and said first code or datum to said storage device; and

storing said at least a first downloadable instruction and said first code or datum at said storage device in association with said mass medium programming.

230. (Unchanged) The method of claim 229, wherein said mass medium programming comprises video, audio, or text, said method further comprising one of the steps of:

embedding said at least a first downloadable instruction in a television or radio signal;

embedding a second code or datum in said mass medium programming that enables a processor or computer to receive or output information to supplement said mass medium programming in accordance with said at least a first downloadable instruction;

communicating a program unit identification code to said storage device and storing said program unit identification code at a storage location associated with said mass medium programming;

communicating to and storing at said storage device said second code or datum to be processed at a user station to evidence an availability, use, or usage of said mass medium programming;

storing at said storage device a second instruct signal which is effective at a user station to select said mass medium programming.

G41 Cont.

231. (Amended) The method of claim 229, further comprising the step of storing some information at said storage device to evidence an availability, use, or usage

of said at least a first downloadable instruction, said evidence information designating or identifying one or more of:

(1) a mass medium program;

(2) a [proper] use of programming;

(3) a transmission station;

(4) a receiver station;

(5) a network;

(6) a broadcast station;

(7) a channel on a cable system;

(8) a time of transmission;

(9) an instruct signal;

(10) a source or supplier of data;

(11) a [publication, article, publisher,] distributor [,] or an advertisement; and

(12) an indication of [copyright] payment obligation.

232. (Amended) The method of claim 229, said method further comprising the steps of:

selecting one of:

(1) a datum that identifies a unit of computer software in said programming signal;

(2) [a datum that specifies some of a way to instruct receiver end equipment what specific programming to select to play or record other than that immediately at hand, how to load it on player or recorder equipment, when and how to play it or record it other than immediately, how to modify it, what equipment or channel or channels to transmit it on, when to transmit it, and how and where to file it or refile it or dispose of it;

(3)] a datum that designates an addressed apparatus;

[(4) a datum that specifies where, when, or how to locate a signal;

(5) a datum that informs a processor of a fashion for identifying and processing a signal;]

[(6)] (3) a datum that is part of a decryption code;

[(7)] (4) a comparison datum that designates a communication schedule; and

embedding said selected one in said programming signal.

GU Cont.

233. (Amended) The method of claim 229, further comprising the steps of:

selecting a second downloadable instruction, said second downloadable instruction being one of:

(1) a switch control instruction;

(2) a timing control instruction;

(3) a locating control signal;

(4) an instruct-to-contact signal that designates a remote receiver station;

(5) an instruct-to-transfer signal that designates a unit of broadcast or cablecast programming;

(6) an instruct-to-delay signal that designates a unit of broadcast or cablecast programming;

(7) an instruct-to-decrypt or instruct-to-interrupt signal that designates a unit of programming and a way to decrypt or interrupt;

(8) an instruct-to-enable or instruct-to-disable signal that designates an apparatus;

(9) an instruct-to-record signal that designates a broadcast or cablecast program;

(10) an instruction signal that controls a multimedia presentation;

(11) an instruction signal that governs a broadcast or cablecast receiver station environment;

(12) an instruct-to-power-on signal that designates a receiver;

(13) an instruct-to-tune signal that designates a receiver or a frequency;

(14) an instruct-to-coordinate signal that designates two apparatus;

(15) an instruct-to-compare signal that designates a news transmission or a computer input;

(16) an identifier signal that causes a computer to instruct a plurality of tuners each to tune to a broadcast or cablecast transmission;

G41 Cmcld

(17) an instruct-to-coordinate signal that designates two units of multimedia information and one of: (1) an output time and (2) an output place;

(18) an instruct-to-generate signal that designates an output datum;

(19) an instruct-to-transmit signal that designates a computer output;

(20) an instruct-to-overlay signal that designates a television image;

(21) an instruct-that-if signal that designates a function to perform if a predetermined condition exists;

(22) an instruct-to-enable-and-deliver signal that designates information that supplements a television program;

(23) an instruct-to-transmit signal that designates a computer peripheral [storage] device;

(24) a code signal that designates a datum to remove or embed; and

(25) a signal addressed to a receiver station apparatus; and

embedding said selected second downloadable instruction in said programming signal.

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234. (Unchanged) A method of controlling a remote transmitter station to deliver a receiver specific output at a receiver station and controlling said receiver station to communicate one or more receiver specific data to a remote data collection station, with said receiver station being remote from said remote transmitter station and said

remote data collection station being remote from said receiver station, said method comprising the steps of:

(1) receiving at the remote transmitter station one or more instruct signals which operate at the receiver station to control a receiver station apparatus and a first code or datum to serve as evidence of the passing of said one or more instruct signals to a controllable device or of the functioning of said controllable apparatus in response to said one or more instruct signals;

(2) receiving a control signal which operates at the remote transmitter station to control the communication of at least one of said one or more instruct signals and communicating said control signal to said remote transmitter station;

(3) receiving a second code or datum designating a specific one of said one or more instruct signals to be transmitted by the remote transmitter station, and said transmitter station transferring said designated specific instruct signal to a transmitter; and

(4) transmitting from said remote transmitter station an information transmission comprising one or more designated instruct signals, said one or more instruct signals being transmitted at one or more specific times or on one or more specific channels in accordance with said control signal.

235. (Unchanged) A method of processing signals at a receiver station, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving an information transmission at a receiver station, said information transmission containing television programming and a plurality of embedded signals;

detecting and identifying at least one of said plurality of embedded signals in said information transmission;

selecting a controllable receiver station apparatus based on information within said at least one identified embedded signal;

passing said at least one identified embedded signal to or within at least one reprogrammable device at said receiver station;

controlling said controllable receiver station apparatus based on instructions within said at least one identified embedded signal; and

storing information evidencing said step of controlling.

236. (Unchanged) The method of claim 235, wherein said step of storing comprises storing some information that evidences a function performed by or initiated by said controllable receiver station apparatus in consequence of said at least one identified embedded signal having been passed to said controllable receiver station apparatus.

237. (Amended) The method of claim 235, wherein said stored information evidences one from the group consisting of:

(a) an output at said receiver station;

(b) a result of processing performed by said controllable receiver station apparatus;

(c) an identification of [some] programming processed by said controllable receiver station apparatus;

(d) a time or date of [some] a function performed by said controllable receiver station apparatus;

(e) an input received by said controllable receiver station apparatus;

(f) a source of input to said controllable receiver station apparatus;

(g) a device controlled by said controllable receiver station apparatus;

(h) a step of decrypting [or descrambling information] or otherwise enabling a presentation [or a key or algorithm used] ;

(i) an output device of said receiver station; and

G42 Cmdd

(j) a time or date of an output at said receiver station.

238. (Unchanged) The method of claim 235, wherein said at least one identified embedded signal instructs the receiver station to execute a conditional operation of a command signal, said method further comprising the steps of:

determining on the basis of stored information that said command signal is present; and

executing said conditional operation.

G43 Cmt.

239. (Amended) The method of claim 238, further comprising the steps of:

storing information evidencing a passing of a second of said at least one identified embedded signal to a processor; and

storing information evidencing a function performed by or initiated by <u>one of</u> a first of said at least one identified embedded signal [in response to] <u>and</u> said second of said at least one identified embedded signal.

240. (Amended) The method of claim 235, wherein [said] at least one identified embedded signal instructs the receiver station to perform a function in response to a command signal, said function selected from the group consisting of:

(a) controlling a tuner to tune to a selected programming, data, or command signal transmission;

(b) controlling a switch or transmission device to communicate programming, data, or a command signal from a selected input source to a selected output source;

(c) controlling a decryptor, descrambler, or enabling device to decrypt, descramble, or enable selected information or to decrypt, descramble, or enable information in consequence of a selected command signal;

(d) controlling an output device to prepare to output selected programming or data; and

G43 Cmd

(e) controlling a processor, controller, or computer to respond to one or more selected command signals or instructions or to process one or more selected data.

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241. (Unchanged) The method of claim 235, wherein the receiver station identifies a plurality of embedded signals each of which designates the availability of at least one unit of data, programming, or command signals, said method further comprising the steps of:

passing each identified embedded signal to a receiver station apparatus that selects data, programming or command signals of interest to a viewer, listener, or user;

controlling said last named apparatus to select one or more units of data, programming, or command signals in response to at least a first identified embedded signal; and

storing some information that evidences the selection of a particular unit of data, programming, or command signals or of a particular carrier transmission, with said particular unit or particular carrier transmission being selected in consequence of an identified embedded signal.

G44 Cmf

242. (Amended) The method of claim 241, including the additional step of:

storing in consequence of each identified embedded signal, information that evidences [the] availability of some data or programming at said receiver station or [the] receiving of a particular information transmission.

Sub I 12

243. (Amended) The method of claim 242, wherein said stored information evidences one from the group consisting of:

(a) an origin of a transmission;

(b) a subject matter of some information contained in a transmission;

(c) an identification of some programming contained in a transmission;

(d) a time or date that a transmission [is transmission] is transmitted or received;

(e) a supplier or owner of some programming contained in a transmission;

(f) a step of processing or controlling performed at a transmission station that communicates signals to said receiver station;

(g) some programming that is not processed by or outputted at said receiver station;

(h) an input received by said receiver station; and

(i) a source of input to or at said receiver station.

244. (Amended) The method of claim 235, wherein the receiver station stores [some] information that evidences a second passing of said at least one identified embedded signal.

245. (Unchanged) The method of claim 244, wherein a storage device stores data, programming, or one or more control signals and the evidence of said second passing is selected from the group consisting of:

(a) two or more sources of an embedded signal, with one of said sources designating a storage device; and

(b) two or more different times designating an embedded signal, with one of said times designating time shifting.

246. (Amended) The method of claim 235, wherein a viewer, listener, or user inputs a command signal or wherein said step of storing includes storing some information that evidences a function performed by or initiated by a user at said station,

with said step of storing being in consequence of said [first] at least one identified embedded signal having been passed to the first selected apparatus.

247. (Amended) The method of claim 246, wherein [the user-function] said information that evidences a function is selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a purchase made by a viewer, listener, or user ;

(b) the identity of a [viewer, listener, or user or] the presence of someone at said receiver station;

G45 Cont.

(c) a reaction of a [viewer, listener, or] user to [a programming presentation] an output;

(d) programming presented [to a viewer, listener, or] user or at said receiver station in response to an input; and

(e) decrypting [or descrambling] or otherwise enabling of a presentation authorized [by a viewer, listener, or user or occurring in response to an input] at said receiver station.

248. (Amended) The method of claim 235, [wherein said receiver station includes a processor, controller, or computer for processing, storing, and communicating signal information,] wherein:

said step of detecting and identifying comprises the steps of:

detecting digital information in [the] said information transmission; and

identifying a signal in [the] said digital information;

said step of passing comprises at least one of the steps of:

passing information in [the] said signal; and

passing one or more preprogrammed data in response to [the] said signal information;

said step of controlling is selected from the group consisting of:

(a) causing [the selected first] said controllable receiver station apparatus to respond to passed information; and

(b) causing [the selected first] said controllable receiver station apparatus to respond to [the] said passed data; and

said step of storing comprises the steps of:

selecting some information in [the] one of said signal and a second signal; and

storing [the] said selected information.

G45 Cnt.

249. (Amended) The method of claim 235, wherein said receiver station communicates evidence information to a remote data collection station, said remote station being a billing or [auditing] monitoring station or a station that collects information communicated in a signal transmission, said method further including a step selected from the group consisting of:

(a) discarding some evidence information detected in a signal transmission at a time when said receiver station is not communicating evidence information to said remote station;

(b) selecting one or a plurality of remote stations to communicate information to;

(c) initiating communication with a remote station; and

(d) causing a remote station to process [billing or monitoring] information detected at said receiver station.

250. (Amended) The method of claim 235, wherein a processor [, controller, or computer] assembles the evidence information into a signal record, said method further having one step selected from the group consisting of:

(a) discarding some stored evidence information;

(b) modifying a time datum in a signal record in response to evidence information;

(c) initiating a signal record in response to evidence information;

(d) selecting a stored datum of evidence in response to information detected in a signal transmission [, said stored datum having been preprogrammed or stored at said receiver station before said detected information is received] ;

G45 Cmt

(e) selecting an evidence datum to store in a signal record; and

(f) communicating evidence information to an remote station based on a precondition or communicating evidence information to a memory location that stores signal records.

251. (Amended) The method of claim 235, wherein a processor [, controller, or computer] assembles the evidence information into a signal record or communicates evidence information to a remote station and said at least one identified embedded signal includes a record assembly or communication instruction, said method further comprising the steps of:

passing said record assembly or communication instruction to said processor [, controller, or computer] .

252. (Amended) The method of claim 251, wherein said last named processor [, controller, or computer] is said selected receiver station apparatus and the passing of the said at least one identified embedded signal is [evident] <u>evidenced</u> in the assembled or communicated evidence information.

253. (Amended) The method of claim 235, wherein a plurality of receiver station apparatus communicate evidence information to a processor [, controller, or

computer] that assembles evidence information into a signal record, said method further comprising the steps of:

(a) buffering evidence information communicated from said plurality of apparatus;

G45 Cncld

(b) identifying specific ones of said plurality of apparatus as sources of specific data of said communicated evidence information;

(c) causing one or more of said receiver station apparatus to communicate evidence information in response to a control signal or to an embedded signal;

(d) outputting a control signal to a controlled device and evidence information to the processor [, controller or computer] in response to said at least one identified embedded signal ; and

(e) controlling one or more of said receiver station apparatus as to a fashion of receiving, detecting, or identifying embedded signals or evidence information.

254. (Unchanged) The method of claim 235, wherein said receiver station further comprises a data collection device for collecting stored evidence information, said method further comprising the step of:

causing a processor, controller, or computer to pass stored evidence information to said data collection device in response to said at least one identified embedded signal.

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255. (Amended) The method of claim 235, wherein said receiver station comprises a memory location for storing [some] information of programming availability and said selected receiver station apparatus comprises a processor [, controller,] or computer for selecting programming to receive, store, process, or present to a [viewer, listener, or viewer,] subscriber, wherein:

said step of detecting and identifying further comprises the steps of:

(1) detecting a signal containing information of programming availability;

(2) identifying the information of programming availability;

said step of passing further comprises the step of:

passing the information of programming availability to the processor [, controller,] or computer; and

said step of controlling further comprises the step of:

causing the processor [, controller,] or computer to select [some] available programming.

256. (Amended) The method of claim 235, wherein said receiver station comprises an output device [capable of outputting to a viewer, listener, or user or to a remote station information inputted from an information source] and said selected receiver station apparatus comprises a [processor, controller, or] computer [associated with an input device] , wherein:

[said step of detecting and identifying comprises the step of detecting and identifying an instruct-to-output signal;]

said step of passing comprises the step of passing [said] an instruct-to-output signal to the [processor, controller, or] computer;

said step of controlling comprises the step of causing the [processor, controller, or] computer to output information stored in the [processor, controller, or] computer's memory to said output device [in response to the instruct-to-output signal] .

257. (Unchanged) The method of claim 235, wherein said selected receiver station apparatus includes a computer wherein:

said step of detecting and identifying comprises the step of detecting and identifying an instruct-to-generate signal;

said step of passing comprises the step of passing said instruct-to-generate signal to said computer; and

said step of controlling comprises the step of causing the computer to process information stored in the computer's memory in response to the instruct-to-generate signal and thereby generate one or more receiver specific data.

258. (Unchanged) A receiver station comprising:

means (a) for receiving an information transmission containing television programming;

means (b) for detecting and identifying at least one of a plurality of embedded signals in said information transmission;

means (c) for selecting a first apparatus based on information within said at least one of said plurality of embedded signals;

means (d) for passing a first identified embedded signal to or within at least one reprogrammable device at said receiver station;

means (e) for controlling said selected first apparatus based on instructions within said first identified embedded signal; and

means (f) for storing information evidencing said controlling.

G47 Cont.

259. (Amended) The receiver station of claim 258, wherein:

said means (a) comprises receiver circuitry for receiving at least some portion of television, radio, or other carrier transmission signal;

said means (b) comprises ~~one or more~~ detectors operatively connected to said means (a);

said means (c) comprises one or more buffers, switches, [busses,] or processors operatively connected to said means (b) and a plurality of controllable receiver station apparatus;

said means (d) comprises one or more [processors, or computers] programmable devices operatively connected to said means (c) and at least one controllable receiver station apparatus; and

said means (e) comprises one or more [register] memories or [random access memories] processors operatively connected to said means (d).

260. (Amended) The receiver station of claim 258, further comprising:

means for communicating evidence information from a plurality of evidence information detectors [, processors,] or [storage locations to a device that assembles evidence information in signal records or communicates evidence information to a remote station] processors;

[means for buffering evidence information communicated from said evidence information detectors, processors, or storage locations;]

means for assembling signal records on the basis of evidence information communicated from said one or more evidence information detectors [, processors,] or [storage locations] processors; and

[means for modifying a method of assembling or communicating evidence information in response to a command;

means for contacting a remote station to communicate stored evidence information; and]

means for communicating [evidence information] said signal records to a remote station.

261. (Amended) The receiver station apparatus of claims 258, 259 or 260, further comprising:

a plurality of first processors each capable of (1) passing identified embedded signals to and (2) controlling at least one receiver station apparatus and (3) communicating evidence information; and

a second processor capable of receiving said evidence information from said plurality of [decoders] first processors and assembling signal records on the basis of said received evidence information or communicating said received evidence information to a remote station.

262. (Amended) The receiver station apparatus of any one of claims 258, 259 or 260, further comprising:

means for communicating identified embedded signals selectively from one of a plurality of inputs or to one of a plurality of outputs;

means for communicating television or radio programming selectively to one of a plurality of evidence information detectors, processors, or storage locations;

[a matrix switch for communicating television, radio, or text programming information or control signals; and]

[a processor, controller, or computer] means for controlling selective communication of television, radio, or [text programming] other signal information or control signals.

263. (Amended) A method of controlling at least one of a plurality of receiver stations each of which includes a [broadcast or cablecast] television receiver, at least one output device, a control signal detector, at least one processor capable of processing a downloadable executable processor instruction, and with each said television receiver station adapted to detect the presence of one or more control signals, to generate a receiver specific signal based on said downloadable executable processor instruction, and to control a device, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving at a [broadcast or cablecast] transmitter station said downloadable executable processor instruction which is effective at said at least one of said plurality of receiver stations to control said device and a code or datum to serve as evidence of the passing of said downloadable executable processor instruction to said device or of the functioning of said device based on said downloadable executable processor instruction;

delivering said downloadable executable processor instruction to a transmitter;

receiving at said transmitter station one or more first control signals which at said at least one of said plurality of receiver stations operate to communicate said downloadable executable processor instruction to said at least one processor and execute said downloadable executable processor instruction; and

transferring said one or more first control signals to said transmitter at a specific time, said transmitter transmitting said downloadable executable processor instruction and said one or more first control signals.

264. (Amended) The method of claim 263, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a second control signal; and

[transmitting one of said downloadable executable processor instruction and said one or more control signals] controlling said transmitter station to perform one of said step of delivering and said step of transferring in response to said second control signal.

265. (Unchanged) The method of claim 264, wherein said second control signal comprises a schedule.

266. (Unchanged) The method of claim 264, wherein said second control signal is received in a satellite transmission.

267. (Unchanged) The method of claim 264, wherein said second control signal is received in a telephone transmission.

268. (Unchanged) The method of claim 263, further comprising the steps of:

receiving mass medium programming; and

transmitting said mass medium programming.

269. (Unchanged) The method of claim 268, wherein said mass medium programming comprises video.

270. (Unchanged) The method of claim 268, wherein said mass medium programming comprises audio.

271. (Unchanged) The method of claim 268, further comprising the step of embedding one of said downloadable executable processor instruction and said one or more control signals in a signal containing said mass medium programming.

272. (Unchanged) The method of claim 268, wherein one of said downloadable executable processor instruction and said one or more control signals is transmitted via satellite.

273. (Unchanged) The method of claim 263, wherein a first of said one or more first control signals operates at said at least one of said plurality of receiver stations to communicate said downloadable executable processor instruction to said at least one processor and a second of said one or more first control signals operates to execute said downloadable executable processor instruction.

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274. (Amended) A method of delivering and billing a subscriber for the use of control signals and computer programming in a communication network, said network having a transmitter station and a receiver station, said transmitter station transmitting control signals associated with files that contain data [and mass medium] or programming material, said receiver station having an input device, a processor for receiving programming instructions and communicating billing records, and a computer for using control signals and computer programming, said method comprising the steps of:

storing a file containing data or [mass medium] programming material;

programming said receiver station to locate, select, evaluate or decrypt said file;

inputting a command;

selecting said file and transmitting a copy to said processor and to an output device;

performing a datum check;

enabling said output device to [receive] process said copy in accordance with a result of said datum check; and

outputting said copy.

275. (Unchanged) The method of claim 274, wherein said receiver station includes a laser disk storage device.

276. (Unchanged) The method of claim 274, wherein said receiver station includes a magnetic disk storage device.

277. (Unchanged) The method of claim 276, wherein said magnetic disk storage device is a magnetic floppy disk storage device.

278. (Unchanged) The method of claim 274, wherein said receiver station includes a magnetic tape storage device.

279. (Unchanged) The method of claim 278, wherein said magnetic tape storage device is a video cassette recorder.

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280. (Amended) A method of collecting and reporting [the] electronic distribution of data programming material in a communications network having a transmitter station and a receiver station, said transmitter station having an input device for inputting a command, a processor for distributing said data programming material and collecting billing records and a storage device to store said data programming material, said receiver station having [a processor] apparatus to receive said billing records, said method comprising the steps of:

inputting a command at said input device at said transmitter station;

distributing said data programming material from said storage device at said transmitter station in response to said command from said step of inputting a command;

creating a billing record at said transmitter station to evidence [availability] use of said data programming material at said transmitter station;

transmitting said billing record from said step of creating a billing record to said receiver station over a data network; and

receiving said billing record from said step of transmitting said billing record at said receiver station from said data network.

281. (Unchanged) The method of claim 280, comprising the further steps of:

storing said billing record from said step of creating a billing record at said transmitter station to accumulate a plurality of billing records; and

transmitting said plurality of billing records in response to said accumulated plurality of billing records reaching a predetermined amount.

282. (Unchanged) The method of claim 280, comprising the further steps of:

autodialing said receiver station from said transmitter station to establish a datalink between said receiver station and said transmitter station in response to said step of transmitting said billing record.

283. (Unchanged) The method of claim 280, comprising the further step of:

establishing a datalink from said receiver station to said transmitter station in response to a signal at said receiver station.

284. (Unchanged) The method of claim 280, 281, 282 or 283, wherein said data programming material includes computer programming material.

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285. (Amended) The method of claim 280, 281, 282 or 283 wherein said data programming material is [copyright protected material] distributed based on an obligation to pay and said billing record reflects [the] electronic distribution of [copyrighted] said data programming material.

286. (Unchanged) The method of claim 280, 281, 282 or 283 wherein said data programming material includes television programming.

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287. (Amended) The method of claim 280, wherein said communication network [is] comprises a telephone communications network.

288. (Unchanged) The method of claim 280, comprising the further step of:

generating a bill at said receiver station in response to said step of receiving said billing record.

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289. (Amended) A method for collecting and reporting [the] electronic distribution of programming material in a communication network having a transmitter station and a plurality of receiver stations, said transmitter station having [a processor] apparatus to collect data from said plurality of receiver stations, each one of said plurality of receiver stations having a processor for detecting [program] identification signals and [determining the] establishing local use of said programming material [at said one of said plurality of receiver stations] and a storage device to record said [determined] local use of said programming material, said method comprising the steps of:

transmitting programming material from said transmitter station to a plurality of receiver stations [over said communication network] ;

transmitting [program] identification signals that correspond to said programming material transmitted in said step of transmitting programming material; and

receiving data from each of said plurality of receiver stations that reflect [the] local use of said programming material transmitted in said step of transmitting programming material,

wherein said data include at least a portion of said [program] identification signals.

290. (Amended) The method of claim 289, comprising the further step of:

generating a bill at said transmitter station to reflect [the] use of said transmitted programming material at one of said plurality of receiver stations.

291. (Unchanged) The method of claim 289, wherein said step of receiving is from a telephone communication network.

292. (Amended) The method of claim 289, wherein at least a portion of said programming material [includes copyright protected programming material.] is distributed based on an obligation to pay.

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293. (Amended) The method of claim 289, wherein one of said [program] identification signals in said step of transmitting [program] identification signals is embedded into said programming material from said step of transmitting programming material.

294. (Amended) The method of claim 289, wherein one of said [program] identification [signal] signals is encoded on a radio frequency carrier, said radio frequency carrier transmitted concurrently with said [program] programming material from said step of transmitting [program] programming material.

295. (Amended) The method of claim 289, wherein one of said [program] identification [signal] signals is encoded on a [radio] television frequency carrier, said radio frequency carrier transmitted [asynchronously from] concurrently with said programming material from said step of transmitting programming material.

296. (Amended) A method of processing signals to enable a subsequent television programming presentation comprising the steps of:

receiving a television signal containing television programming and communicating said television signal to a storage device for storage;

receiving [a first] an instruct signal which is effective to control a receiver station apparatus and a code or datum to serve as evidence of the passing of said [first] instruct

signal to a controllable device or of the functioning of said controllable device in response to said [first] instruct signal;

selecting one of:

(1) a time at which to communicate said [first] instruct signal; and

(2) a location to which to communicate said [first] instruct signal;

communicating said [first] instruct signal at said selected time or to said selected location; and

storing said [first] instruct signal and said code or datum at said storage device based on said steps of selecting and communicating.

297. (Unchanged) An interactive method for data promotion and delivery for use with an interactive mass medium programming output apparatus comprising the steps of:

outputting mass medium programming that promotes data, said interactive mass medium programming output apparatus having an input device to receive input from a subscriber;

prompting said subscriber during said step of outputting, said mass medium programming including audio, whether said subscriber wants said data promoted in said step of displaying, said interactive mass medium programming output apparatus having an output device for outputting said data;

receiving a reply from said subscriber at said input device in response to said step of prompting said subscriber, said interactive mass medium programming output apparatus having a processor for processing said subscriber reply and controlling delivery of said data in response to instructions;

delivering said instructions at said interactive mass medium programming output apparatus in response to said step of receiving a reply, said instructions controlling said interactive mass medium programming output apparatus;

processing said instructions from said step of delivering, said instructions being effective to control a receiver station apparatus and store a code or datum to serve as evidence of the passing of an instruct signal to a controllable device or of the functioning of said controllable device in response to an instruct signal; and

delivering said data on the basis of said instructions.

298. (Unchanged) The method of claim 297, wherein at least one of said instructions is embedded in the non-visible or non-audible portion of a mass medium programming signal.

299. (Unchanged) The method of claim 297, wherein at least one of said instructions is delivered in a multichannel signal transmitted over a broadband network, said method further comprising the step of demodulating a carrier to receive at least one of said instructions.

300. (Unchanged) The method of claim 297, wherein at least one of said instructions is delivered in a multichannel signal transmitted via a satellite mass medium programming transmitter station, said method further comprising the step of demodulating a carrier to receive at least one of said instructions.

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301. (Amended) The method of claim 297, further comprising the steps of:

storing a subscriber instruction to receive at least one specific mass medium program, datum, news item, or computer control instructions; and

receiving said at least one specific mass medium program, said datum, said news item, or said computer control [intruction] instruction in accordance with said subscriber instruction.